MARVEL MASTERWORKS

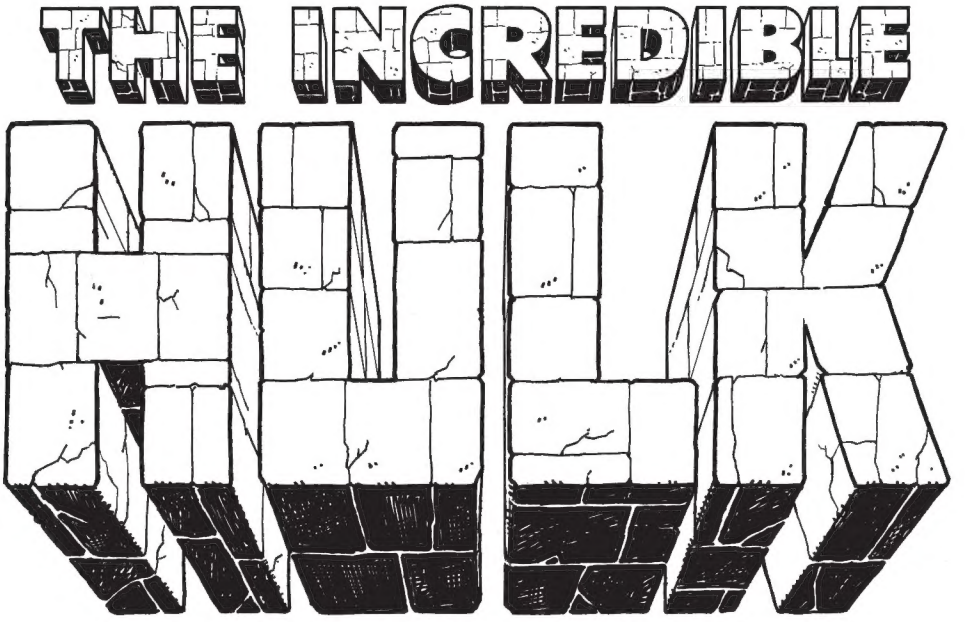
THE INCREDIBLE HULK

VOLUME 15

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 234-244
& ANNUAL Nos. 8-9
ROGER STERN & SAL BUSCEMA

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS



VOLUME 15

COLLECTING

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 234-244

& ANNUAL Nos. 8-9

ROGER STERN • SAL BUSCEMA

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NOS. 234-244 & ANNUAL NOS. 8-9

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CONTENTS

Introduction by Roger Stern . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #234, April 1979
"Battleground: Berkeley!" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #235, May 1979
"The Monster and the Machine" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #236, June 1979
"Kill or Be Killed!" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #237, July 1979
"When a City Dies!" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk Annual #8, 1979
"Sasquatch!" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #238, August 1979
"Post Hulk…Post Holocaust!" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #239, September 1979
"All That Glitters…" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #240, October 1979
"…And Now El Dorado" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #241, November 1979
"Partners in Deception!" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #242, December 1979
"Sic Semper Tyrannus!" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #243, January 1980
"Death--and Destiny!" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk Annual #9, 1980
"A Game of Monsters and Kings" . . . . . .

The Incredible Hulk #244, February 1980
"It Lives!" . . . . . .

INTRODUCTION
BY ROGER STERN

Hello again, and welcome to the fifteenth volume in the continuing saga of the Incredible Hulk—the series that asks the question: "Can a man with green skin and a petulant personality find true happiness in today's status-seeking society?"

I wish I could take credit for that line, but I can't. It was originally posed by Stan Lee in the pages of the Hulk's feature for *Tales to Astonish* #60, way back in 1964. And the answer to that question? "Probably not. At least, not for long." I hope that wasn't too much of a spoiler. But after all, nothing ever seems to come easy for the Hulk. Except smashing. He's really good at that.

Before we go any further, though, I have to warn you about something concerning this volume. There is an unfortunate error that found its way into many of these stories when they were brand new, and I was at least partly responsible for not catching it. Those budding detectives among you may be tempted to stop reading this introduction and start scanning the stories for clues.

It's okay. Go ahead. We'll wait for you.

Dum-de-dum-dum…Doc-tor Ban-ner, belted by gamma rays…Oh, hi! Back already? Did you find the mistake? If not, that's all right. I'll point it out later in this introduction.

Now where was I? Oh, yes…in our two previous volumes, I explained 1) how Len Wein—my former editor and co-writer on the *The Incredible Hulk*—tricked me into writing the series, and 2) how my first year on the book was complicated by my day job, which was editing about a dozen Marvel comics a month.

That latter complication was still the case during my second year on the *Hulk*. Five days a week, I would put in my nine-to-five[1] at the House of Ideas, making sure that books like *The Avengers*, *Captain America*, *Iron Man*, and *The Uncanny X-Men* were produced and sent to the printer on time. Then, after work and on weekends, I would write stories about the Hulk. And sometimes Doctor Strange. It was one of the busier times in my life. I didn't get much sleep in those days.

But through it all, I was just so astonishingly lucky, because—month in and month out—I got the opportunity to work on *The Incredible Hulk* with so many wonderful, talented people. And chief among them was the great Sal Buscema.

Sal, of course, had been drawing *Hulk* since before I joined the series, and he continued long after I left. He defined the look and the power of the Hulk for a decade, and did it extraordinarily well. But that's no big surprise. Sal did everything superbly—whether it was inking his brother John's pencils on the *Silver Surfer* or drawing series as varied as *The Spectacular Spider-Man*, *The Avengers*, or *The Incredible Hulk*. And I don't think Sal ever missed a deadline, but he certainly came to the rescue of other creators who were in danger of missing theirs.

In a way, I was spoiled. Whatever I asked for on *Hulk*, Sal could and would draw. And he always made it look so good! All I had to do was ask him to show the Hulk, say, ripping a skyscraper apart, and—BOOM!—there it was. Working with Sal taught me so much about storytelling. I know he made me a better writer in the process. It was some of the best on-the-job training any fledgling writer could ever hope for. I could go on and on about what a great artist Sal Buscema is, but really, all you have to do is gaze at the pages that follow.

1 Actually, it was more like eight-to-six.

Speaking of which, this volume covers my second year on the series, and Sal's fourth. It's still a little strange for me to realize that we worked on these stories over forty years ago. Let's see how much I can remember about writing them…

The Incredible Hulk #234 starts off as the sort of slice-of-life story, which Stan Lee and Jack Kirby did so well in 1960s, and which I tried my best to emulate. We open by reintroducing Trish Starr, who had originally come into the Hulk's life via his association with the Defenders.

Also in this issue, Marvel Man adopts a new codename—Quasar[2]—which would serve him well in the future. Plus, we check up on the lives of longtime supporting cast members Doc Samson, Thunderbolt Ross, Betty Ross and Glenn Talbot.

Issue #234 also sets things up for our Hulk/Machine Man trilogy in *Incredible Hulk* #235-237.

A slight digression: I'd had the pleasure of proofreading Jack Kirby's last few issues of *Machine Man*, and was sorely disappointed when the book was canceled. I had greatly enjoyed the series, and thought that Jack was just hitting his stride. There were so many questions that hadn't yet been resolved! Would Congressman Brickman's congressional committee recognize Machine Man's humanity? Would Machine Man be successful in tracking down the criminal Corporation?

And that's when it occurred to me: Hey, I could have Machine Man guest-star in *The Incredible Hulk*, and answer some of those questions myself. Along with the help of fellow writers Roger McKenzie and David Michelinie, Sal and I had already started settling part of the Corporation question in previous issues of *Hulk* and *Captain America*.[3] So, since we already had the Hulk in California—Machine Man's backyard, as it were—I dug right in and brought those two Kirby creations together.

The Hulk, of course, was one of Jack Kirby's earliest contributions to the Marvel Universe. *The Incredible Hulk* #1 was published just seven months after *Fantastic Four* #1 and three months before the debut of Thor in *Journey into Mystery* #83. And Machine Man was Kirby's last great Marvel creation.[4] Having the two of them share a storyline just felt right somehow.

With our three-part saga, Sal and I put the Hulk and Machine Man through a battle royale that ranged from the suburbs of Calvin Lane to the heart of Central City. Along the way, we managed to show that Machine Man's Central City was the same Golden State metropolis that had birthed the Fantastic Four. And as it turned out, we helped bridge Kirby's *Machine Man* with the book's revival under the guidance of Marv Wolfman, Steve Ditko and Tom DeFalco.

The Machine Man trilogy leads right into *The Incredible Hulk Annual* #8, and there's an interesting story behind that. A year earlier, John Byrne and I had enjoyed working together on *Annual* #7. And for this year, he had the idea that his Alpha Flight character Sasquatch should battle the Hulk. It was a great idea that presented us with just one problem. At the time, John was drawing *The Avengers*, *Fantastic Four* and *The Uncanny X-Men*, plus that year's *Amazing Spider-Man Annual*.[5] There was no way he could draw another Annual in time to meet the deadline. The only solution was for the two of us to co-write the story, and find another artist to draw it.

2 Please note: I myself did not create Quasar. The character was introduced—first, as Marvel Boy—in *Captain America* #217 by Roy Thomas, Don Glut and John Buscema. (They drew their inspiration from the Venusian Marvel Boy first drawn by Russ Heath in 1950.) While I was writing *The Incredible Hulk* #234, Mark Gruenwald and Ralph Macchio were already in the middle of revamping the erstwhile Wendall Vaughn for his role in upcoming issues of *Marvel Two-In-One*, which I was editing. I merely set things up for them, giving Wendall the new codename that Mark and Ralph had devised.

3 Those stories were collected in *Marvel Masterworks: Incredible Hulk Vol. 14*.

4 That's my opinion, at any rate. Apologies to all of you *Devil Dinosaur* fans.

5 Issue #13, for those of you keeping track.

I checked with our editor Al Milgrom. Could Sal fit an extra 34 pages into his schedule? It turned out that he could, probably in between filling in on a couple issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man* and *Battlestar Galactica.* I can't recall if John typed up the plot, or if I did, but it was soon on its way to Sal. Once Sal was finished, John wrote a first draft of the script, I wrote the final draft, Jim Novak lettered it, and Alfredo Alcala provided the finishing inks. The readers loved it, and John got the thrill of seeing a character that he'd designed be drawn by Sal Buscema.

And that brings us to our final story arc—*The Incredible Hulk* #238-243—the saga of "They Who Wield Power." This story was actually the resolution of a mystery that had been running through several Marvel series over the previous seven years. Len Wein had started the ball rolling with a mention of "mysterious benefactors" who had equipped the super villain The Orb in *Marvel Team-Up* #15, and "They" had appeared—in shadow, as was their custom—most recently in *The Incredible Hulk* #208-209. Rarely a month went by that I didn't receive at least one letter from a longtime reader, wanting to know when we were going to reveal "The Secret of They." So, I decided to put my mind to figuring out just who "They" were.

And that's where Marvel Serendipity came into play. Something I always loved, as a reader of Marvel comics, was the way in which a series of seemingly unrelated people and events would every so often turn out to have a connection. As I looked back over all previous stories of "They," I began to see patterns that I hadn't noticed before. I don't want to say too much more here. I'd rather you read the stories and see for yourself.

There are also a few acknowledgments I'd like to make. Young Mark Gruenwald—then a fledgling assistant editor and later to become my editor on *The Avengers*—helped me redesign the Goldbug and his bug-ship for the story, making them look more impressive. Mark also designed the power harness used by the secret member of the They triumvirate, who—SPOILER ALERT—turned out to be one the Hulk's oldest enemies. In more ways than one.

On the splash page of *The Incredible Hulk* #240, you'll notice that artist Joe Sinnott garnered a big welcome in the credits. Joe, of course, did a magnificent job on the issue, and he was supposed to become the book's regular inker/finisher, but for some long-forgotten reason that fell through. (Joe did wind up inking the then-current *The Incredible Hulk* newspaper comic strip.)

Speaking of credits, our colorist Glynis Wein's name was inadvertently left out of issue #240. I mean, the book didn't just color itself. Sorry, Glyn! (Yeah, we apologized to her formally on the letters page of issue #245, but that still doesn't seem like enough.)

With *The Incredible Hulk* #241, the series did finally get a regular inker to finish Sal's pencils. And that inker was Sal himself! He would continue to produce the full art on the book for at least the next three years, and it was wonderful to see.

Issue #242, however, turned out to be my last full issue. With my editorial workload running me ragged, I didn't feel I could continue to give my best to the series. So, after finishing the script for this issue and plotting issue #243, to wrap up the Saga of They, I regretfully left the *The Incredible Hulk*. Steven Grant scripted the last issue over my plot, and did a great job.

But wait! That's not all!

Next up in this volume is *The Incredible Hulk Annual* #9, written by Doug Moench and drawn by Steve Ditko. This story had its origins as a promotional giveaway for a major soft drink manufacturer. The plan, as I recall, was that soft drink buyers would send in some proof-of-purchase coupon and get a special Marvel Comic featuring the Hulk, Spider-Man or the Fantastic Four. But the deal fell through while those three special issues were being produced. The Spider-Man issue became *The Spectacular Spider-Man Annual* #2, the F.F. story became *Fantastic Four* #220-221 and the Hulk story became this Annual. Think of it as a pause that refreshes.

And finally, *The Incredible Hulk* #244 was written by the renowned Mr. Grant and drawn by Carmine Infantino.

But I see that a few of you are still wondering about the error I mentioned earlier. Here's the secret: The mistake is in that little box atop the first page of all but a few of the issues in this volume. It's the introductory caption that reads:

"Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion***, victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—Stan Lee Presents: The Incredible Hulk!"

But that's wrong. Banner wasn't "caught in the *heart* of a nuclear explosion." As was shown in *The Incredible Hulk* #1, he was many miles from what was referred to as "bomb zero" when he first was bombarded with gamma radiation. It would be more accurate to say that he'd been caught on the *edge* of a nuclear explosion. At any rate, the series' top copy was wrong—had been wrong for years—and somebody really should have caught it. Somebody such as, oh, maybe the writer of the series? Certainly the editors.

Our bad. Sorry.

Anyway, that about covers my last year on *The Incredible Hulk*. I wish I could remember more to tell you, but I wrote those stories over forty years ago, and it was a busy time. The only thing I can add is that despite all of the deadline hassles, I always really enjoyed being part of the Hulk team.

Looking back, I'm struck by the fact that so many of those who worked on these stories are no longer with us: Mike Esposito, Alfredo Alcala, and my old friends Jack Abel and Joe Sinnott. Their talents are sorely missed. But more than that, I miss those gentlemen for the kindness that they showed me as I was learning my craft.

Mike, Alfredo, Jack, and Joe…George Roussos, Jim Novak, Joe Rosen, and Mark Gruenwald…the great Steve Ditko…Carmine Infantino…Stan Lee and Jack Kirby…They and their good works will always live on in memory.

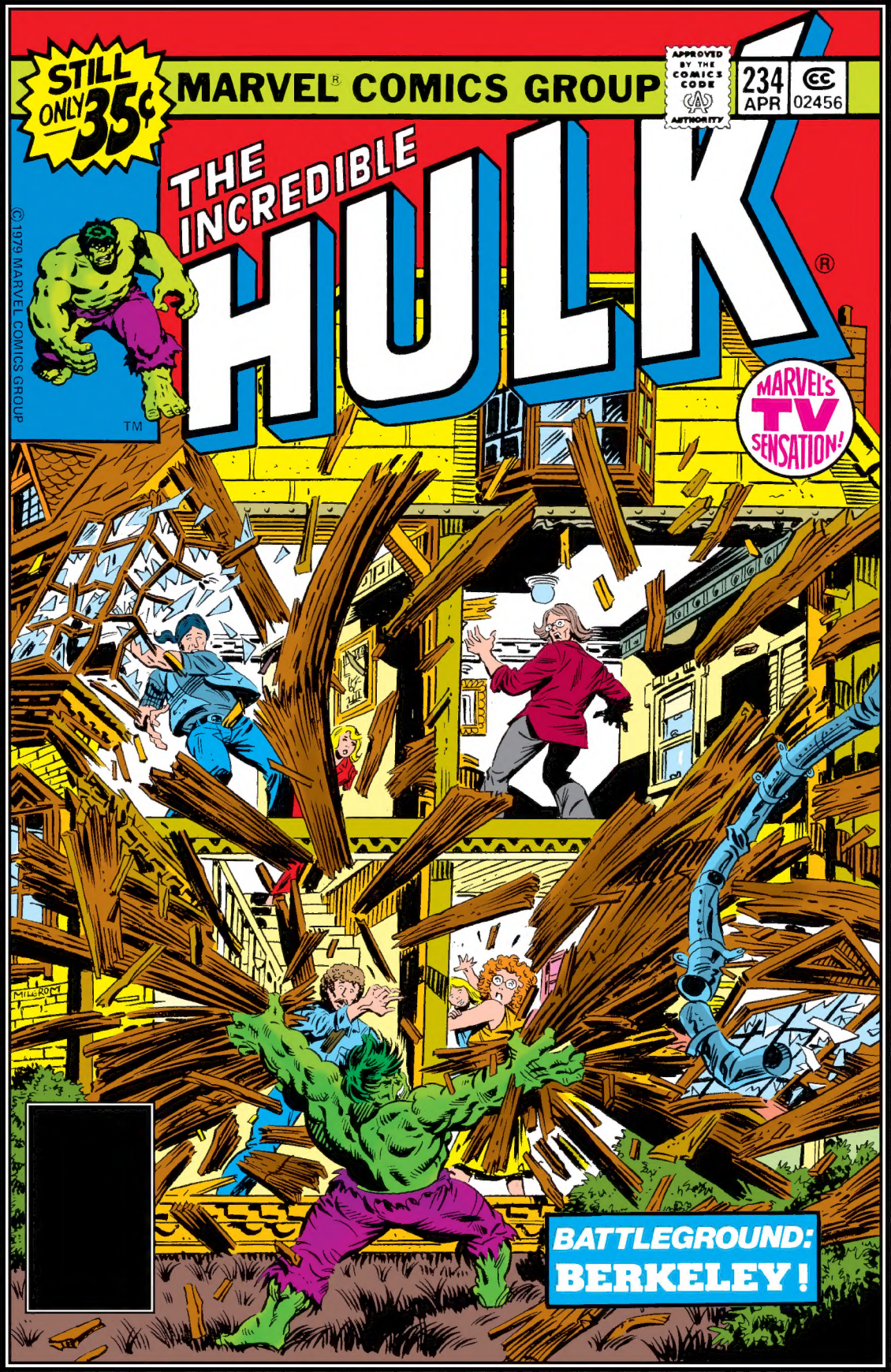
And to my editors Allen Milgrom, Jo Duffy, and Jim Shooter…to John Byrne, Steve Grant, and Doug Moench…to John Costanza and Rick Parker…to Elaine Heinl, Bob Sharen, Glynis (Wein) Oliver, and Nel Yomtov…and especially to my great collaborator, Sal Buscema…take care and live well.

I wouldn't have made it as far without you.

Roger Stern

2020

Roger Stern went on to write stories for Captain America, The Amazing Spider-Man, Doctor Strange *and* The Avengers, *among other titles. He would later write stories about the Hulk for* Marvel Team-Up Annual #3, Marvel Shadows & Light #3 *and* Giant-Size Incredible Hulk #1.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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

BATTLEGROUND: BERKELEY!

AFTER A **SERIES** OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS*, FRED SLOAN HAD FINALLY BROUGHT THE HULK TO THE HOME OF FRIENDS IN **BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA.**

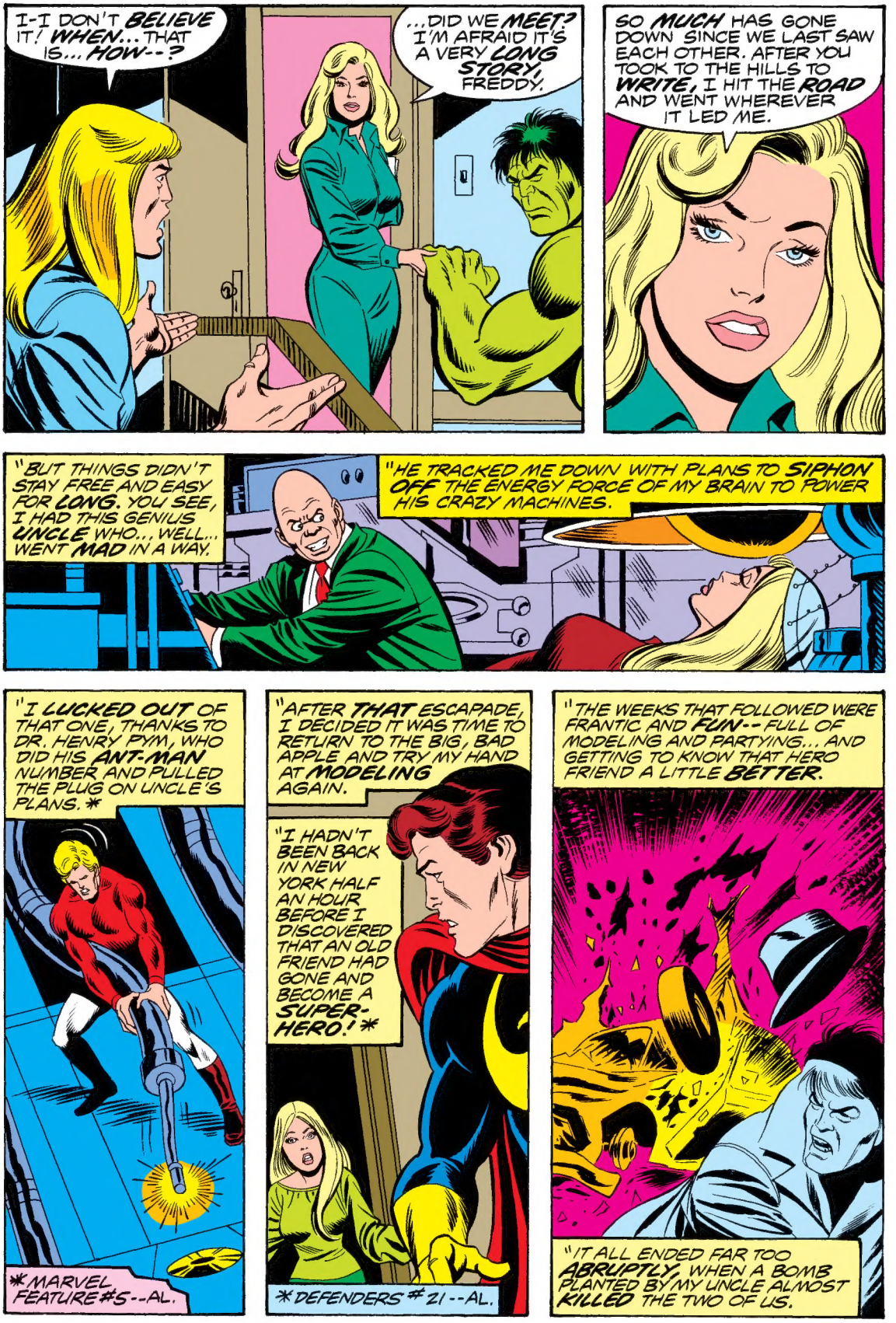
BUT NO SOONER HAD THEY **ARRIVED,** THAN THEY WERE MET BY FRED'S OLD FRIEND **TRISH STARR...** AND FRED WAS **STARTLED** TO DISCOVER THAT...

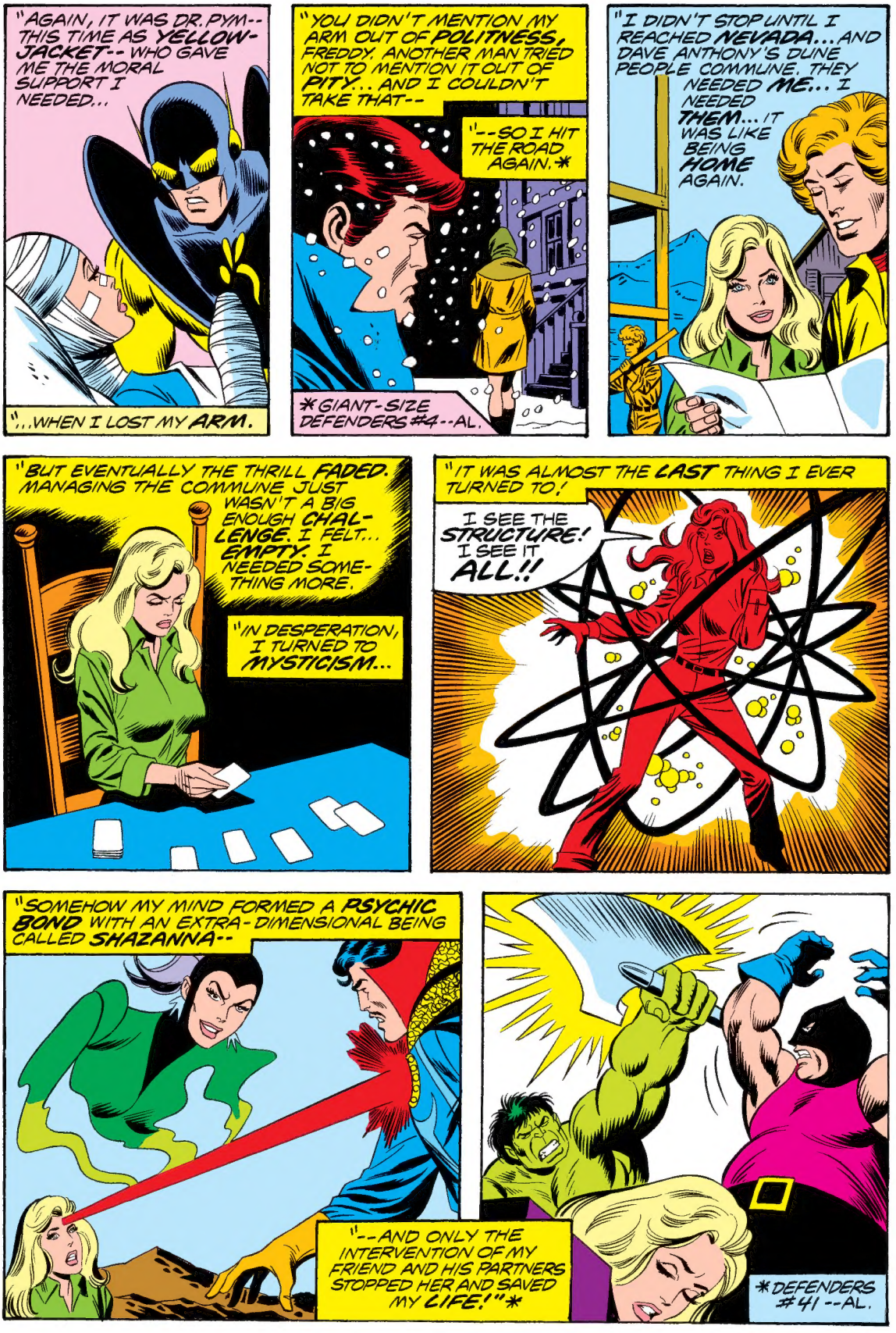
YOU... YOU **KNOW** EACH OTHER?!

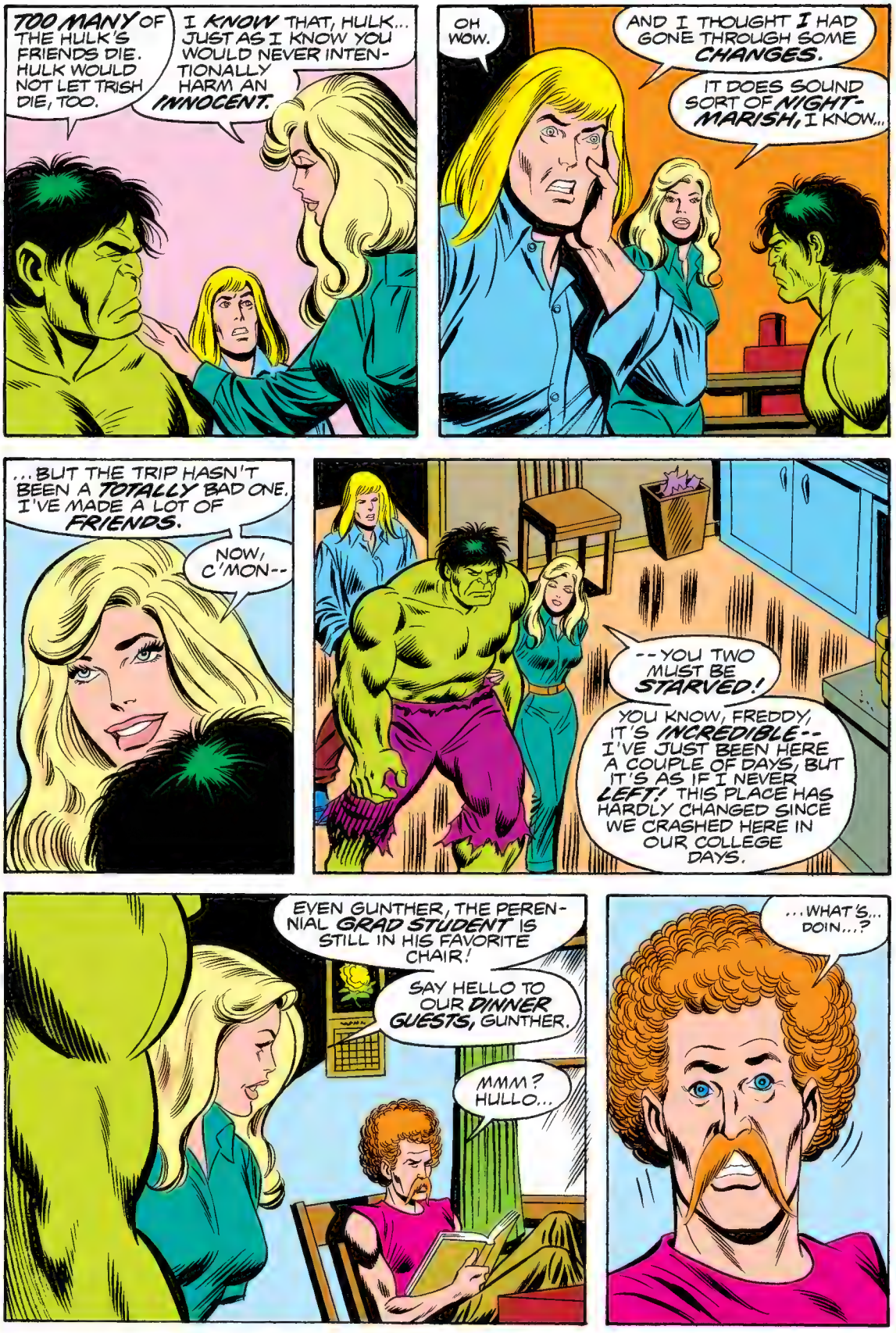
ROGER STERN
WRITER
SAL BUSCEMA and JACK ABEL
ARTISTS
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
ELAINE HEINL, COLORIST
A.L. MILGROM, EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

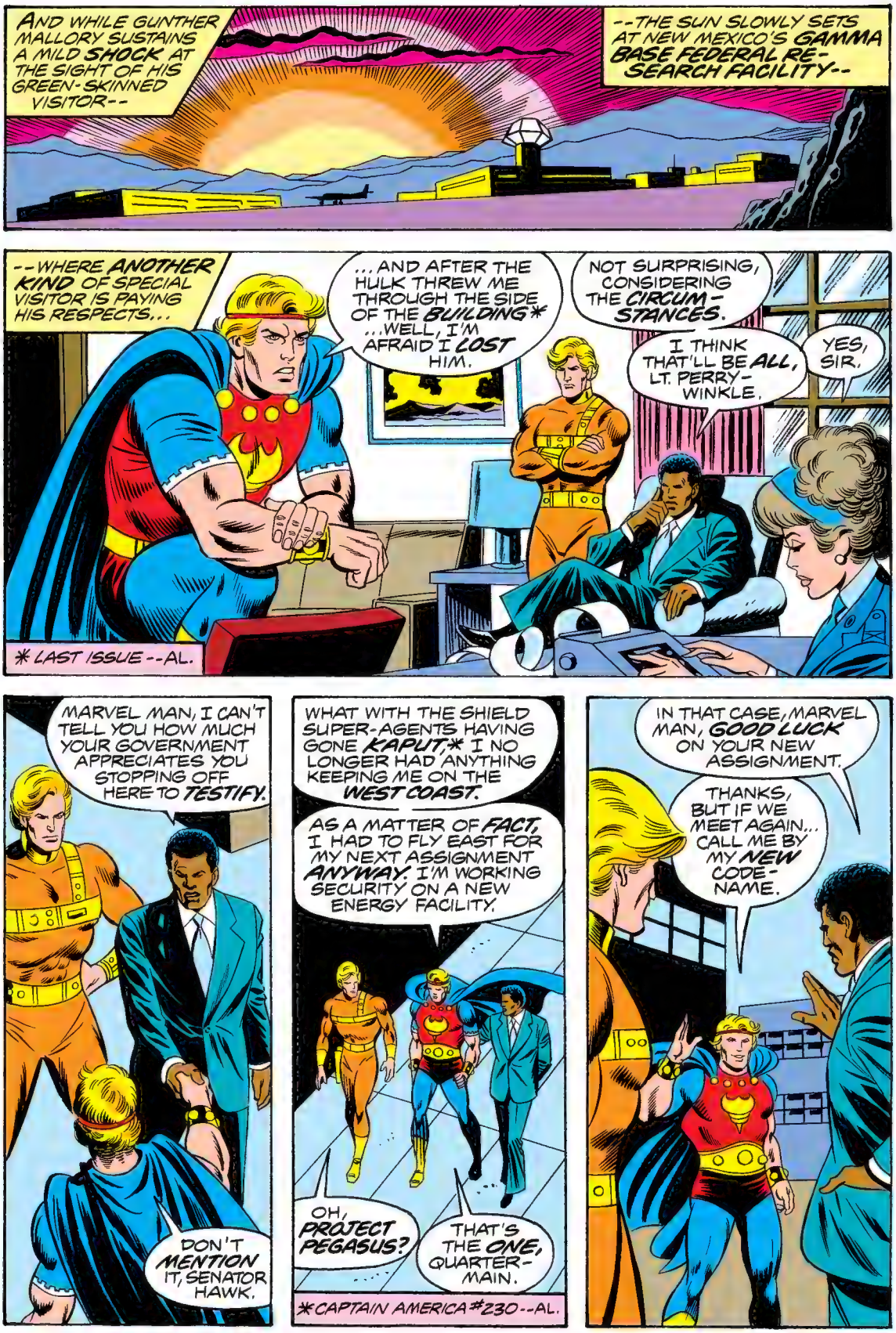
*SEE RECENT ISSUES --AL.

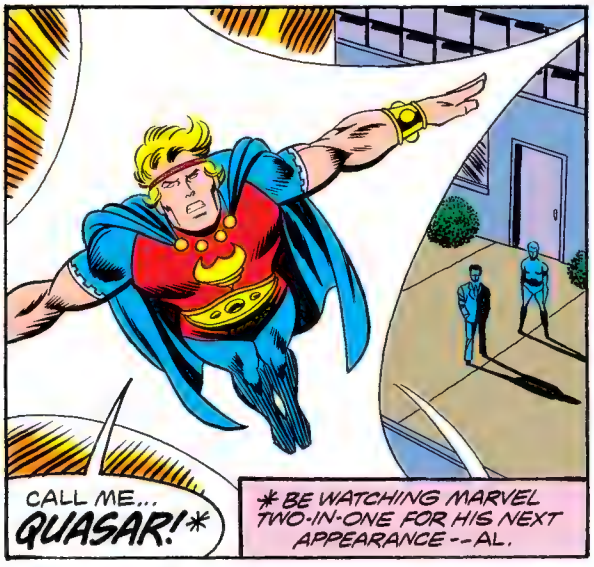
LG 282


I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WHEN... THAT IS... HOW--?
...DID WE MEET? I'M AFRAID IT'S A VERY LONG STORY, FREDDY.
SO MUCH HAS GONE DOWN SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER. AFTER YOU TOOK TO THE HILLS TO WRITE, I HIT THE ROAD AND WENT WHEREVER IT LED ME.
"BUT THINGS DIDN'T STAY FREE AND EASY FOR LONG. YOU SEE, I HAD THIS GENIUS UNCLE WHO... WELL... WENT MAD IN A WAY.
"HE TRACKED ME DOWN WITH PLANS TO SIPHON OFF THE ENERGY FORCE OF MY BRAIN TO POWER HIS CRAZY MACHINES.
"I LUCKED OUT OF THAT ONE, THANKS TO DR. HENRY PYM, WHO DID HIS ANT-MAN NUMBER AND PULLED THE PLUG ON UNCLE'S PLANS.*
*MARVEL FEATURE #5--AL.
"AFTER THAT ESCAPADE, I DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO RETURN TO THE BIG, BAD APPLE AND TRY MY HAND AT MODELING AGAIN.
"I HADN'T BEEN BACK IN NEW YORK HALF AN HOUR BEFORE I DISCOVERED THAT AN OLD FRIEND HAD GONE AND BECOME A SUPER-HERO!*
*DEFENDERS #21--AL.
"THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED WERE FRANTIC AND FUN--FULL OF MODELING AND PARTYING... AND GETTING TO KNOW THAT HERO FRIEND A LITTLE BETTER.
"IT ALL ENDED FAR TOO ABRUPTLY, WHEN A BOMB PLANTED BY MY UNCLE ALMOST KILLED THE TWO OF US.

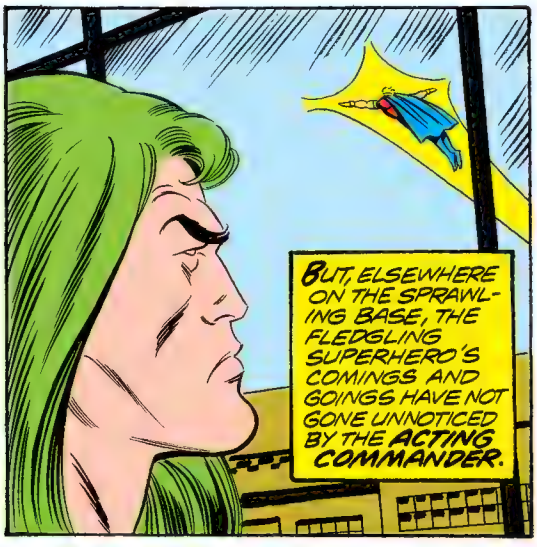

"AGAIN, IT WAS DR. PYM--THIS TIME AS YELLOW-JACKET--WHO GAVE ME THE MORAL SUPPORT I NEEDED...
"...WHEN I LOST MY ARM.
"YOU DIDN'T MENTION MY ARM OUT OF POLITNESS, FREDDY. ANOTHER MAN TRIED NOT TO MENTION IT OUT OF PITY... AND I COULDN'T TAKE THAT--
"--SO I HIT THE ROAD AGAIN.*
*GIANT-SIZE DEFENDERS #4--AL.
"I DIDN'T STOP UNTIL I REACHED NEVADA... AND DAVE ANTHONY'S DUNE PEOPLE COMMUNE. THEY NEEDED ME... I NEEDED THEM... IT WAS LIKE BEING HOME AGAIN.
"BUT EVENTUALLY THE THRILL FADED. MANAGING THE COMMUNE JUST WASN'T A BIG ENOUGH CHALLENGE. I FELT... EMPTY. I NEEDED SOMETHING MORE.
"IN DESPERATION, I TURNED TO MYSTICISM...
"IT WAS ALMOST THE LAST THING I EVER TURNED TO!
I SEE THE STRUCTURE! I SEE IT ALL!!
"SOMEHOW MY MIND FORMED A PSYCHIC BOND WITH AN EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL BEING CALLED SHAZANNA--
"--AND ONLY THE INTERVENTION OF MY FRIEND AND HIS PARTNERS STOPPED HER AND SAVED MY LIFE!"*
*DEFENDERS #41--AL.

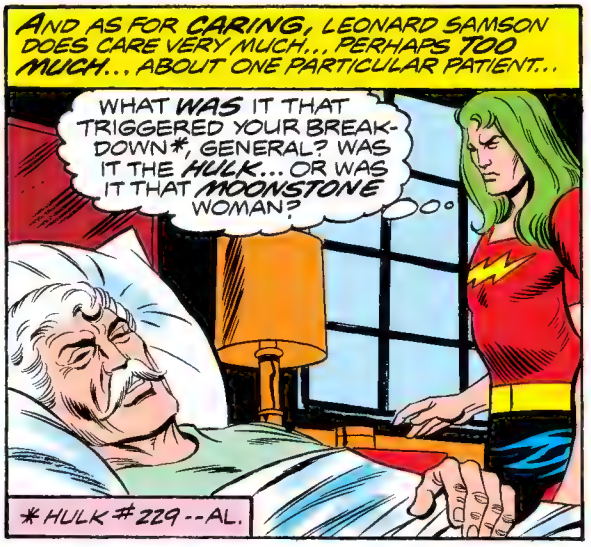

TOO MANY OF THE HULK'S FRIENDS DIE. HULK WOULD NOT LET TRISH DIE, TOO.
I KNOW THAT, HULK... JUST AS I KNOW YOU WOULD NEVER INTENTIONALLY HARM AN INNOCENT.
OH WOW.
AND I THOUGHT I HAD GONE THROUGH SOME CHANGES.
IT DOES SOUND SORT OF NIGHTMARISH, I KNOW...
...BUT THE TRIP HASN'T BEEN A TOTALLY BAD ONE. I'VE MADE A LOT OF FRIENDS.
NOW, C'MON--
--YOU TWO MUST BE STARVED!
YOU KNOW, FREDDY, IT'S INCREDIBLE-- I'VE JUST BEEN HERE A COUPLE OF DAYS, BUT IT'S AS IF I NEVER LEFT! THIS PLACE HAS HARDLY CHANGED SINCE WE CRASHED HERE IN OUR COLLEGE DAYS.
EVEN GUNTHER, THE PERENNIAL GRAD STUDENT IS STILL IN HIS FAVORITE CHAIR!
SAY HELLO TO OUR DINNER GUESTS, GUNTHER.
MMM? HULLO...
...WHAT'S... DOIN...?

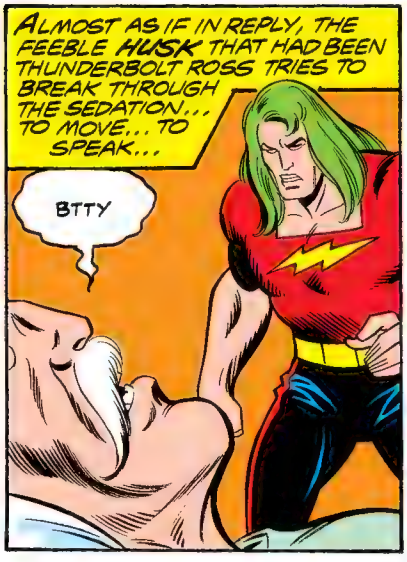

AND WHILE GUNTHER MALLORY SUSTAINS A MILD SHOCK AT THE SIGHT OF HIS GREEN-SKINNED VISITOR--
--THE SUN SLOWLY SETS AT NEW MEXICO'S GAMMA BASE FEDERAL RE-SEARCH FACILITY--
--WHERE ANOTHER KIND OF SPECIAL VISITOR IS PAYING HIS RESPECTS...
...AND AFTER THE HULK THREW ME THROUGH THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING* ...WELL, I'M AFRAID I LOST HIM.
NOT SURPRISING, CONSIDERING THE CIRCUM-STANCES.
I THINK THAT'LL BE ALL, LT. PERRY-WINKLE.
YES, SIR.
* LAST ISSUE --AL.
MARVEL MAN, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH YOUR GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES YOU STOPPING OFF HERE TO TESTIFY.
DON'T MENTION IT, SENATOR HAWK.
WHAT WITH THE SHIELD SUPER-AGENTS HAVING GONE KAPUT,* I NO LONGER HAD ANYTHING KEEPING ME ON THE WEST COAST.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I HAD TO FLY EAST FOR MY NEXT ASSIGNMENT ANYWAY. I'M WORKING SECURITY ON A NEW ENERGY FACILITY.
OH, PROJECT PEGASUS?
THAT'S THE ONE, QUARTER-MAIN.
*CAPTAIN AMERICA #230--AL.
IN THAT CASE, MARVEL MAN, GOOD LUCK ON YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT.
THANKS, BUT IF WE MEET AGAIN... CALL ME BY MY NEW CODE-NAME.

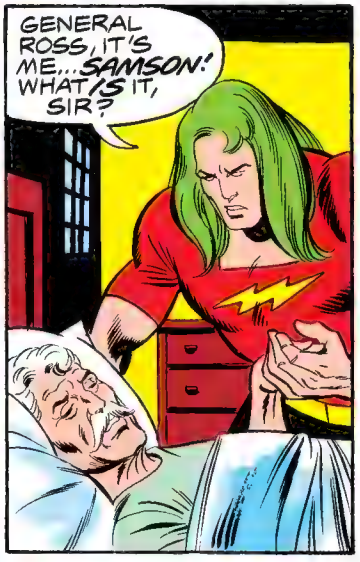

CALL ME... QUASAR!*
* BE WATCHING MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE FOR HIS NEXT APPEARANCE--AL.

NOW THERE GOES A REAL HERO, QUARTERMAIN! WHERE WAS OUR DR. SAMSON DURING DEBRIEFING? DOESN'T HE CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ANYMORE?
I...DON'T KNOW, SENATOR.

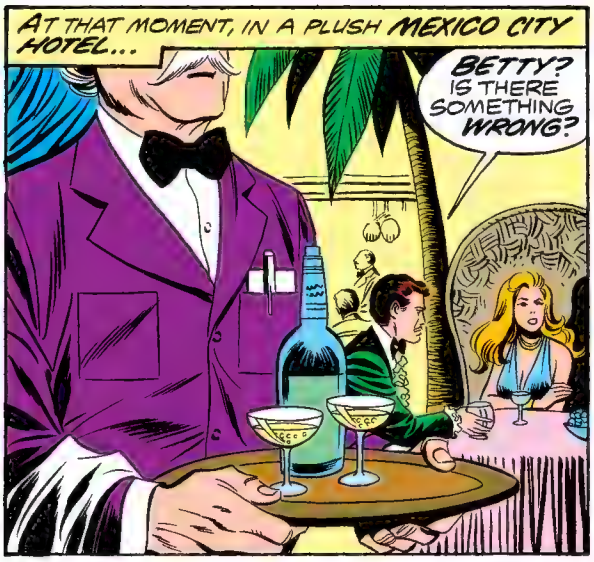

BUT, ELSEWHERE ON THE SPRAWLING BASE, THE FLEDGLING SUPERHERO'S COMINGS AND GOINGS HAVE NOT GONE UNNOTICED BY THE ACTING COMMANDER.

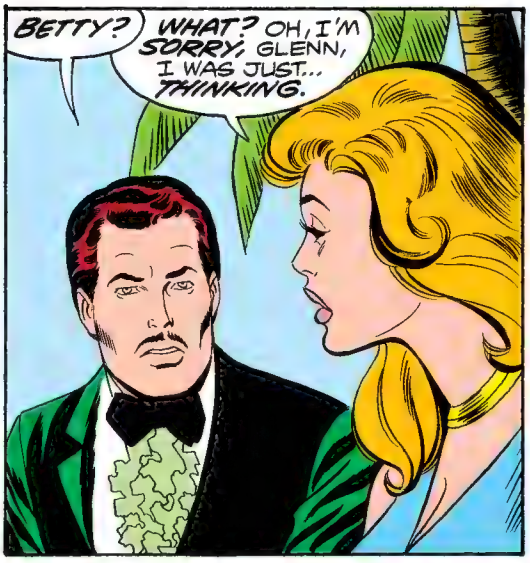

AND AS FOR CARING, LEONARD SAMSON DOES CARE VERY MUCH... PERHAPS TOO MUCH... ABOUT ONE PARTICULAR PATIENT...
WHAT WAS IT THAT TRIGGERED YOUR BREAKDOWN*, GENERAL? WAS IT THE HULK... OR WAS IT THAT MOONSTONE WOMAN?
* HULK #229--AL.

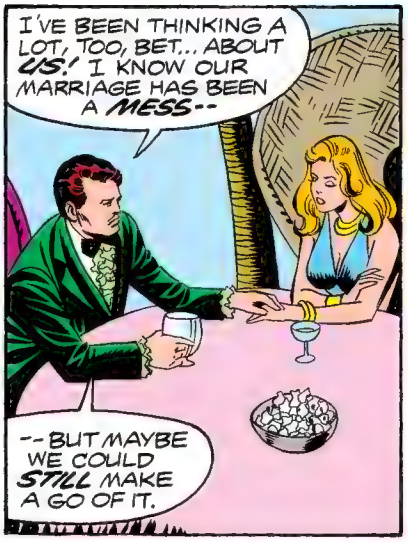

ALMOST AS IF IN REPLY, THE FEEBLE HUSK THAT HAD BEEN THUNDERBOLT ROSS TRIES TO BREAK THROUGH THE SEDATION... TO MOVE... TO SPEAK...
BTTY


GENERAL ROSS, IT'S ME...SAMSON! WHAT IS IT, SIR?

BETTY.. BETTY..


AT THAT MOMENT, IN A PLUSH MEXICO CITY HOTEL...
BETTY? IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?

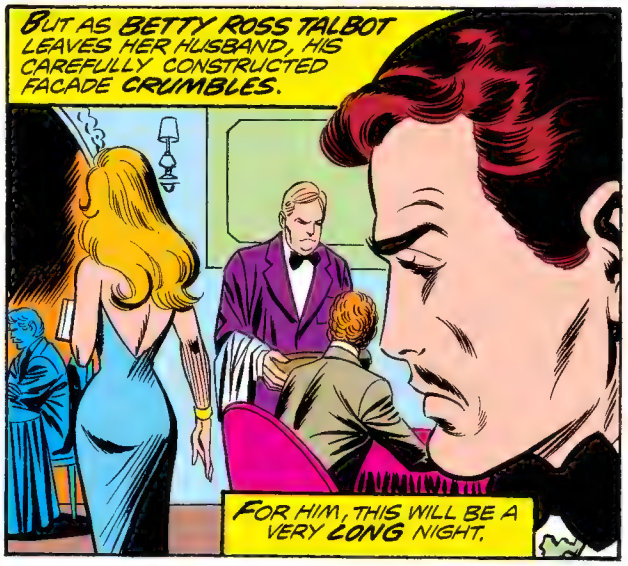

BETTY?
WHAT? OH, I'M SORRY, GLENN, I WAS JUST... THINKING.


I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT, TOO, BET... ABOUT US! I KNOW OUR MARRIAGE HAS BEEN A MESS--
--BUT MAYBE WE COULD STILL MAKE A GO OF IT.

OH, GLENN... GLENN. IF THERE WAS REALLY ANY HOPE, DO YOU THINK WE'D BE HERE NOW?

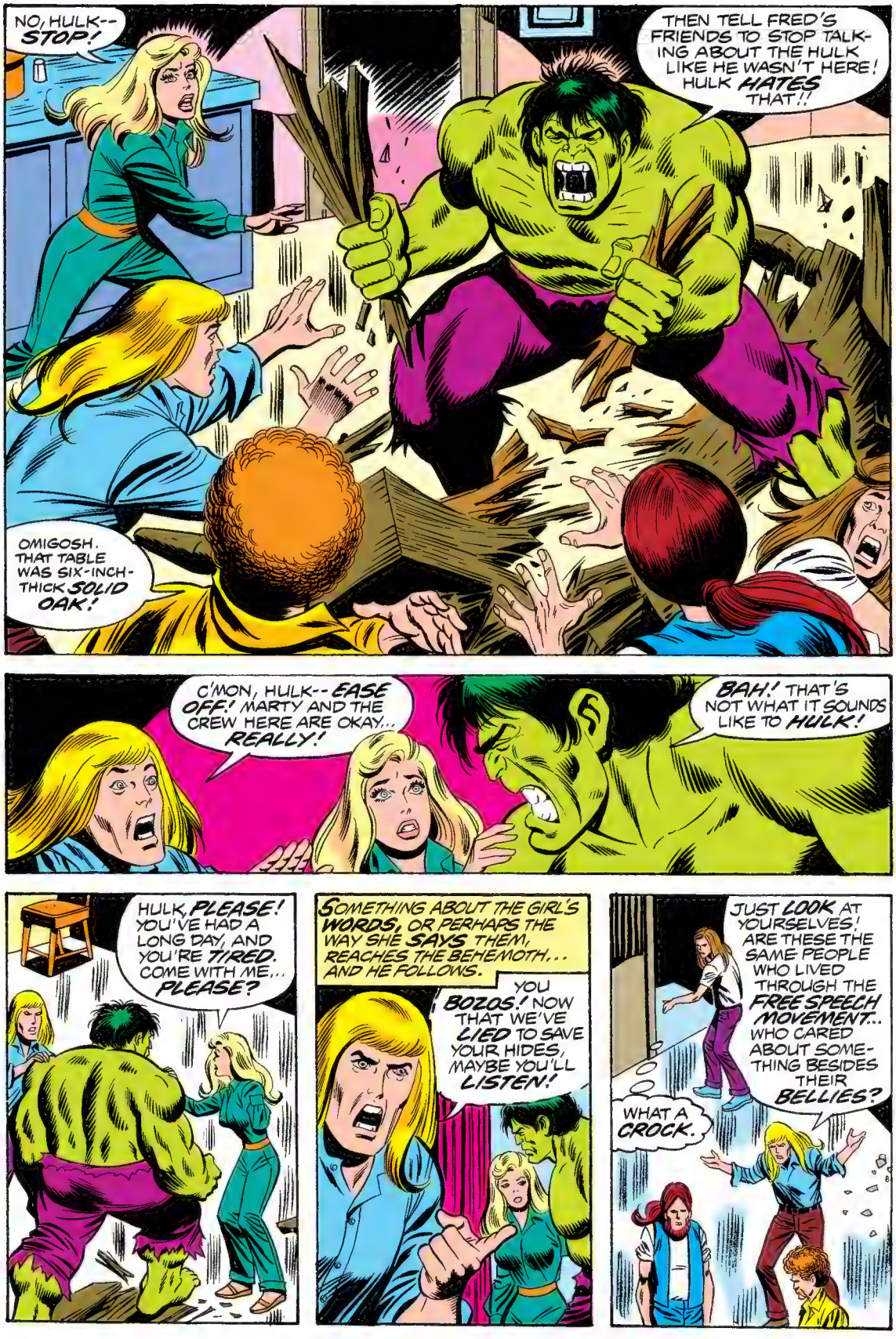
NO.
GLENN, PLEASE DON'T BE SO DOWN. YOU KNOW THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING IS FOR THE BEST.

AND YOU KNOW THAT WHATEVER HAPPENS, WE'LL STILL BE FRIENDS.
WELL, I'D BETTER TURN IN... WE'VE GOT A BUSY DAY TOMORROW.
YES... FRIENDS.

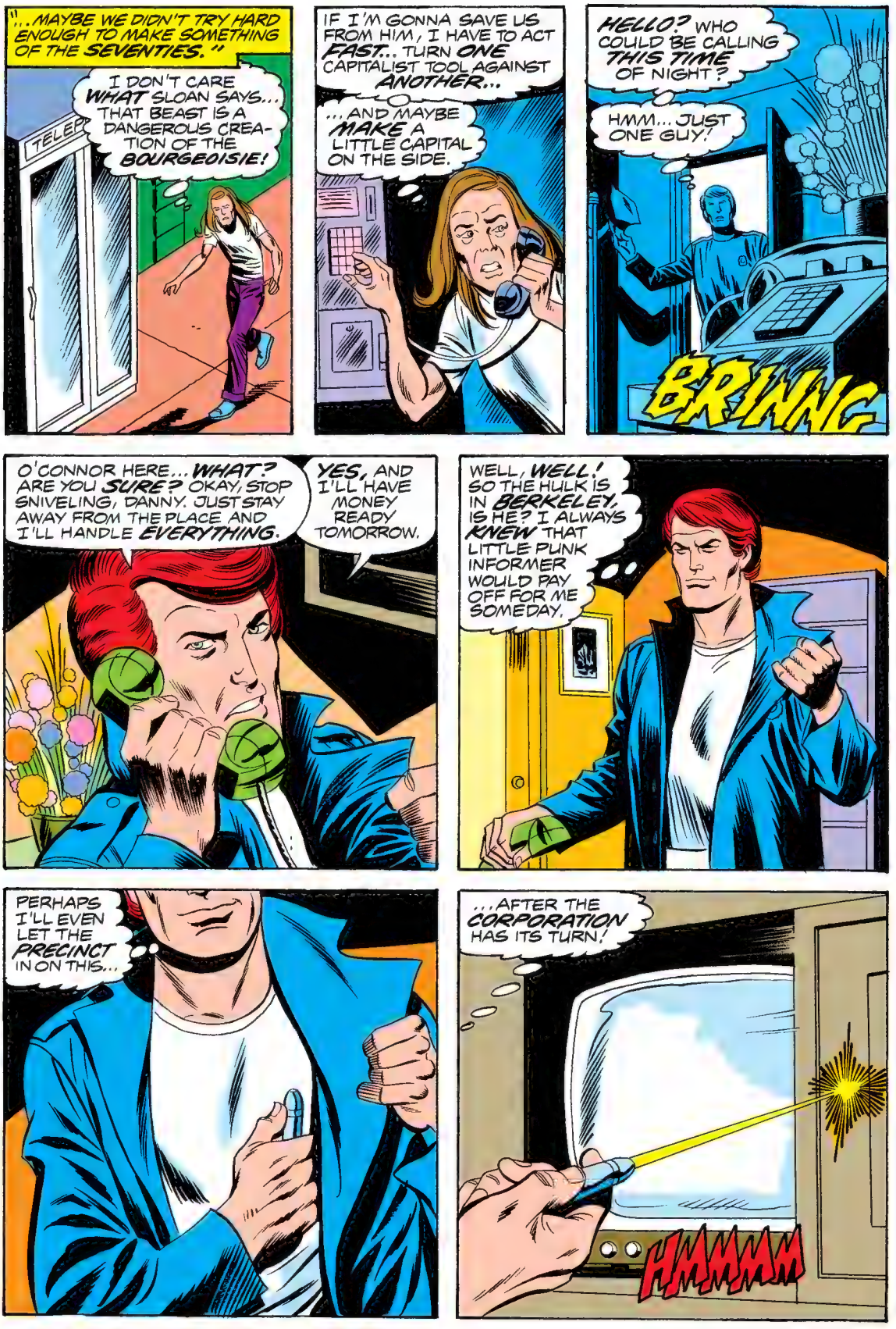

BUT AS BETTY ROSS TALBOT LEAVES HER HUSBAND, HIS CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED FACADE CRUMBLES.
FOR HIM, THIS WILL BE A VERY LONG NIGHT.

MEANWHILE, IN THE COMMUNAL KITCHEN OF A JOINTLY-OWNED DWELLING IN BERKELEY, THE HULK PARTAKES OF HIS EVENING MEAL BEFORE A SOMEWHAT ANXIOUS AUDIENCE...
H-HE SURE CAN PUT IT AWAY.
THAT HE CAN, DANNY.
HEY... UH... TRISH, YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME... AND FRED'S A REAL BROTHER... BUT...
MILK
WHAT GUNTH IS TRYING TO SAY, SLOAN, IS WHERE DO YOU GET OFF BRINGING THAT MONSTER IN HERE?
YEAH!
...UHH YEAH!
MONSTER? DO I HEAR YOU GUYS RIGHT?
DAMN STRAIGHT! WHY DON'T YOU JUST BRING A LIVE BOMB IN HERE?
YEAH, HE COULD GO CRAZY OR ANYTHING!
SHH! HOLD IT DOWN, WILL YOU?
LOOK-- HE'S ALREADY EATEN A WEEK'S GROCERIES! IF HE DIDN'T HATE THE BROWN RICE, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING FOR US!
WHY SHOULD HE?
GUNTHER, WILL YOU SHUT UP?

BECAUSE, MARTY, THE HULK MIGHT NOT LIKE IT! IF YOU JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE, EVERYTHING'LL BE COOL--
--BUT IF YOU MAKE HIM ANGRY...
OH, MOMMY-- LOOKIT! HE BROKE YOUR SKILLET!
TH-THAT'S ALL RIGHT, TRUTH... JUST STAY OUT OF THE NICE GREEN MAN'S WAY. HE'S STILL... HUNGRY.
BUT SLOWLY... STEADILY... THE HULK IS LOSING HIS APPE-TITE...
...AS HE LISTENS TO THE THREE MEN WHO BANDY HIS NAME ABOUT... ALL THE TIME GETTING MADDER AND MADDER...
...AND MADDER!
I DON'T CARE IF... HUH?
OH! NO!
KERACK

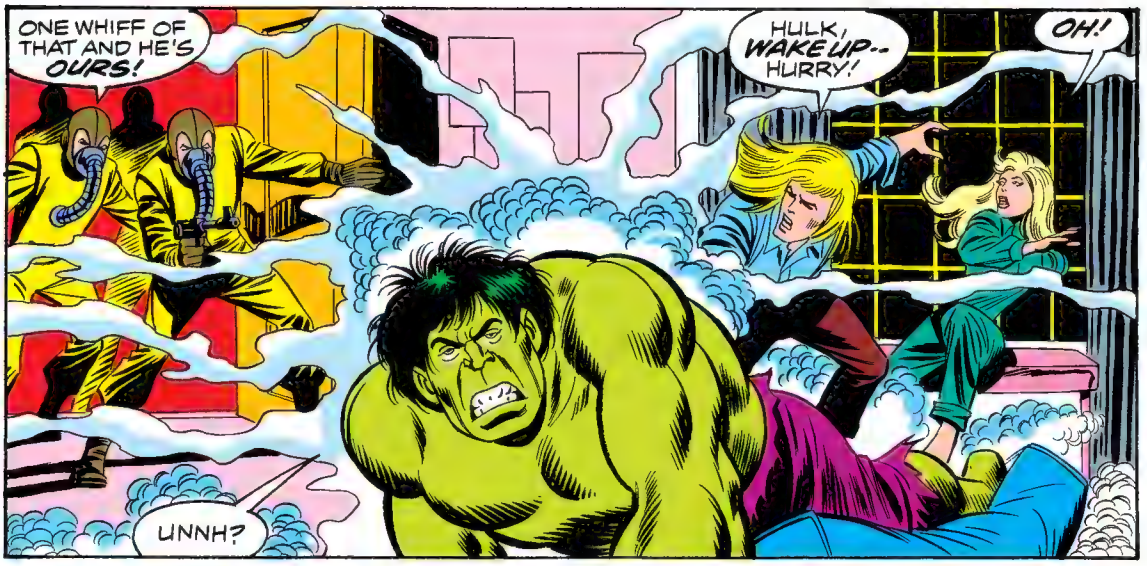

NO, HULK-- STOP!
THEN TELL FRED'S FRIENDS TO STOP TALKING ABOUT THE HULK LIKE HE WASN'T HERE! HULK HATES THAT!!
OMIGOSH. THAT TABLE WAS SIX-INCH-THICK SOLID OAK!
C'MON, HULK-- EASE OFF! MARTY AND THE CREW HERE ARE OKAY... REALLY!
BAH! THAT'S NOT WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE TO HULK!
HULK, PLEASE! YOU'VE HAD A LONG DAY, AND YOU'RE TIRED. COME WITH ME... PLEASE?
SOMETHING ABOUT THE GIRL'S WORDS, OR PERHAPS THE WAY SHE SAYS THEM, REACHES THE BEHEMOTH... AND HE FOLLOWS.
YOU BOZOS! NOW THAT WE'VE LIED TO SAVE YOUR HIDES, MAYBE YOU'LL LISTEN!
JUST LOOK AT YOURSELVES! ARE THESE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO LIVED THROUGH THE FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT... WHO CARED ABOUT SOMETHING BESIDES THEIR BELLIES?
WHAT A CROCK.

YOU USED TO MARCH AGAINST OPPRESSION... BUT WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE TO HELP ONE OF THE MOST OPPRESSED CREATURES TO EVER WALK THE EARTH, YOU... I...
...OH, TO HELL WITH IT! I'M GOING TO SEE TO MY FRIEND!
TRISH? HOW IS... OH.
AUG 1
FILLMORE
OUR EYES
ON YOU
I THINK HE'LL BE MANAGEABLE TILL MORNING.
MAYBE IF HE GETS ENOUGH REST, HE'LL CHANGE BACK TO DR. BANNER.
OH, I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT.
FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD, HE ONLY CHANGES BACK TO NORMAL WHEN HIS RAGE HAS BEEN SPENT... AND LOOK AT HIM!
YEAH, HE'S ASLEEP, BUT HE'S HARDLY WHAT YOU'D CALL RELAXED.
FILLMORE
OUR EYES
ON YOU!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO DISAPPOINTED BY HIS BUNCH, TRISH... WHAT HAPPENED TO US?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS WE USED TO PLEDGE OURSELVES TO?
I DON'T KNOW, FRED... I JUST DON'T KNOW.
WE WERE ALL SUCH A PART OF THE SIXTIES. I WONDER...


"...MAYBE WE DIDN'T TRY HARD ENOUGH TO MAKE SOMETHING OF THE SEVENTIES."
I DON'T CARE WHAT SLOAN SAYS... THAT BEAST IS A DANGEROUS CREATION OF THE BOURGEOISIE!
TELEP
IF I'M GONNA SAVE US FROM HIM, I HAVE TO ACT FAST... TURN ONE CAPITALIST TOOL AGAINST ANOTHER...
...AND MAYBE MAKE A LITTLE CAPITAL ON THE SIDE.
HELLO? WHO COULD BE CALLING THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
HMM... JUST ONE GUY!
BRRNG
O'CONNOR HERE... WHAT? ARE YOU SURE? OKAY, STOP SNIVELING, DANNY. JUST STAY AWAY FROM THE PLACE AND I'LL HANDLE EVERYTHING.
YES, AND I'LL HAVE MONEY READY TOMORROW.
WELL, WELL! SO THE HULK IS IN BERKELEY, IS HE? I ALWAYS KNEW THAT LITTLE PUNK INFORMER WOULD PAY OFF FOR ME SOMEDAY.
PERHAPS I'LL EVEN LET THE PRECINCT IN ON THIS...
...AFTER THE CORPORATION HAS ITS TURN!
HMMMM

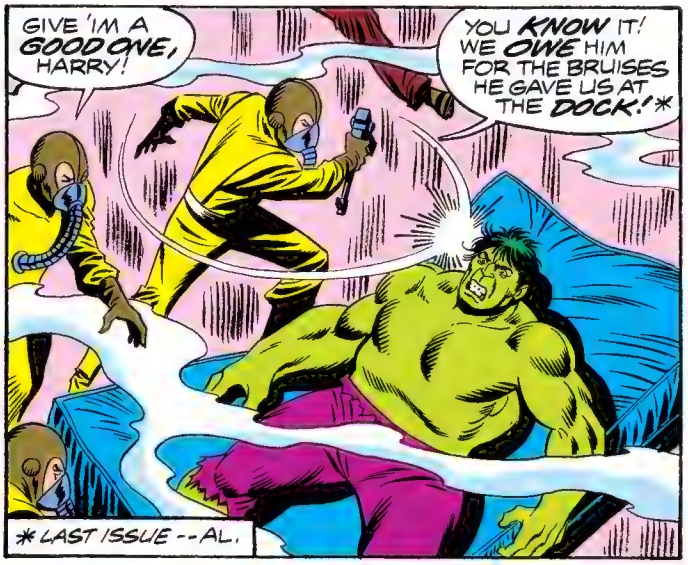
ELSEWHERE, IN A SECRET CORPORATION HIDEAWAY SOMEWHERE NORTH OF BAKERSFIELD...
ANOTHER OUTPOST LOST TO US! LUCKILY THERE WEREN'T MANY RECORDS LEFT IN THE ALCATRAZ BASE-- BUT SHIELD'S PRESENCE THERE* COULD MAKE THINGS VERY HOT FOR ME.
IF I DON'T SQUARE THINGS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SOON, I COULD WIND UP LIKE KLIGGER.**
...IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.
* HULK #232
** DITTO --AL.
MR. JACKSON, ONE OF OUR STRINGERS HAS GOTTEN A TIP ON THE HULK'S WHEREABOUTS! HE'S HOLED UP WITH SLOAN AND SOME GIRL AT A CO-OP DWELLING IN BERKELEY.
IS THAT SO?
BENSON, THIS PRESENTS US WITH AN INTERESTING OPPORTUNITY. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, I'VE FACED MAJOR SET-BACKS BECAUSE OF TWO INDIVIDUALS..
...THE HULK...
...AND MACHINE MAN.
* MACHINE MAN #8 --AL.
BUT NOW... I THINK WE JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE BOTH OF THESE PROBLEM CHILDREN TO OUR ADVANTAGE!

5:35 A.M. A LARGE SEMI-TRAILER RIG MAKES A VERY SPECIAL STOP IN BERKELEY--
--TO DELIVER A MOST UNUSUAL CARGO!
WITH THE PRACTICED MOVEMENTS OF EXPERIENCED COMMANDOS, THE UNIFORMED MEN SURROUND THE DWELLING WITH NARY A WORD SPOKEN--
--UNTIL...
NOW!
KTASH!
WHAT THE--?!
I KNEW IT! THEY FINALLY DID IT! THEY RESCINDED THE CONSTITUTION!
HURRY! FAN OUT IN TEAMS OF TWO-- IF WE DON'T GET THE HULK WITH THE GAS, THERE'LL BE THE DEVIL TO PAY!
BINGO! I FOUND 'IM!
THEN, HEADS UP!


ONE WHIFF OF THAT AND HE'S OURS!
HULK, WAKE UP-- HURRY!
OH!
UNNH?

BEFORE THE GREEN-SKINNED GIANT CAN COME FULLY AWAKE, HE TAKE IN A DEEP LUNG-FUL OF THE BILLOWING GAS...
H-H-HULK...

...AND FINDS HIMSELF TOTALLY PARALYZED!
NOW AIN'T THAT A SIGHT! THE HULK-- HELPLESS AS A BABY!


GIVE 'IM A GOOD ONE, HARRY!
YOU KNOW IT! WE OWE HIM FOR THE BRUISES HE GAVE US AT THE DOCK!*
*LAST ISSUE --AL.

THAT'LL BE ENOUGH OF THAT!
OH. YES, SIR.
WE WERE JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN.

IF YOU WANT TO HAVE FUN, HAVE IT ON YOUR OWN TIME--NOT ON THE CORPORATION'S!
HOW DO YOU DO, HULK--I AM CALLED MACHINE MAN! DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO GET UP...THE PARALYSIS GAS WON'T WEAR OFF FOR HALF AN HOUR.
THAT SHOULD ALLOW US PLENTY OF TIME TO GET AWAY WITH MS. STARR HERE!
WHAT?!
YOU SEE, WE'RE GOING TO PLAY A LITTLE GAME, HULK. IF YOU WANT TO SEE MS. STARR ALIVE AGAIN, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MEET ME LATER TODAY AT THE HOME OF PETER SPAULDING, IN CENTRAL CITY.
THE ADDRESS IS 125 CALVIN LANE. OH, AND COME PREPARED TO FIGHT!
HAHAHAHA
THE PARALYZED HULK CAN UTTER NOT A WORD--
--BUT THE LOOK IN HIS EYES IS HORRIBLE TO BEHOLD!
AND, OUTSIDE...
TAKE CARE OF HER, BOYS. HEALTHY HOSTAGES ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
YOU KNOW, I'D HATE TO BE THE REAL MACHINE MAN WHEN THE HULK FINDS HIM!

TIME SEEMS TO OOZE BY-- SECONDS SLOWLY TURNING INTO MINUTES--
--AS THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS BEGIN TO WEAR OFF.
HULK, I THINK I CAN MOVE MY ARMS A LITTLE. CAN YOU... YOU...
ARRGHH!
KRA KOOM!
NOBODY CAN DO THAT TO THE HULK! NOBODY!
HULK WILL FIGHT MACHINE MAN, ALL RIGHT! HULK WILL SMASH HIM INTO THE GROUND!
NEXT: THE MONSTER AND THE MACHINE!

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THE MONSTER AND THE MACHINE!

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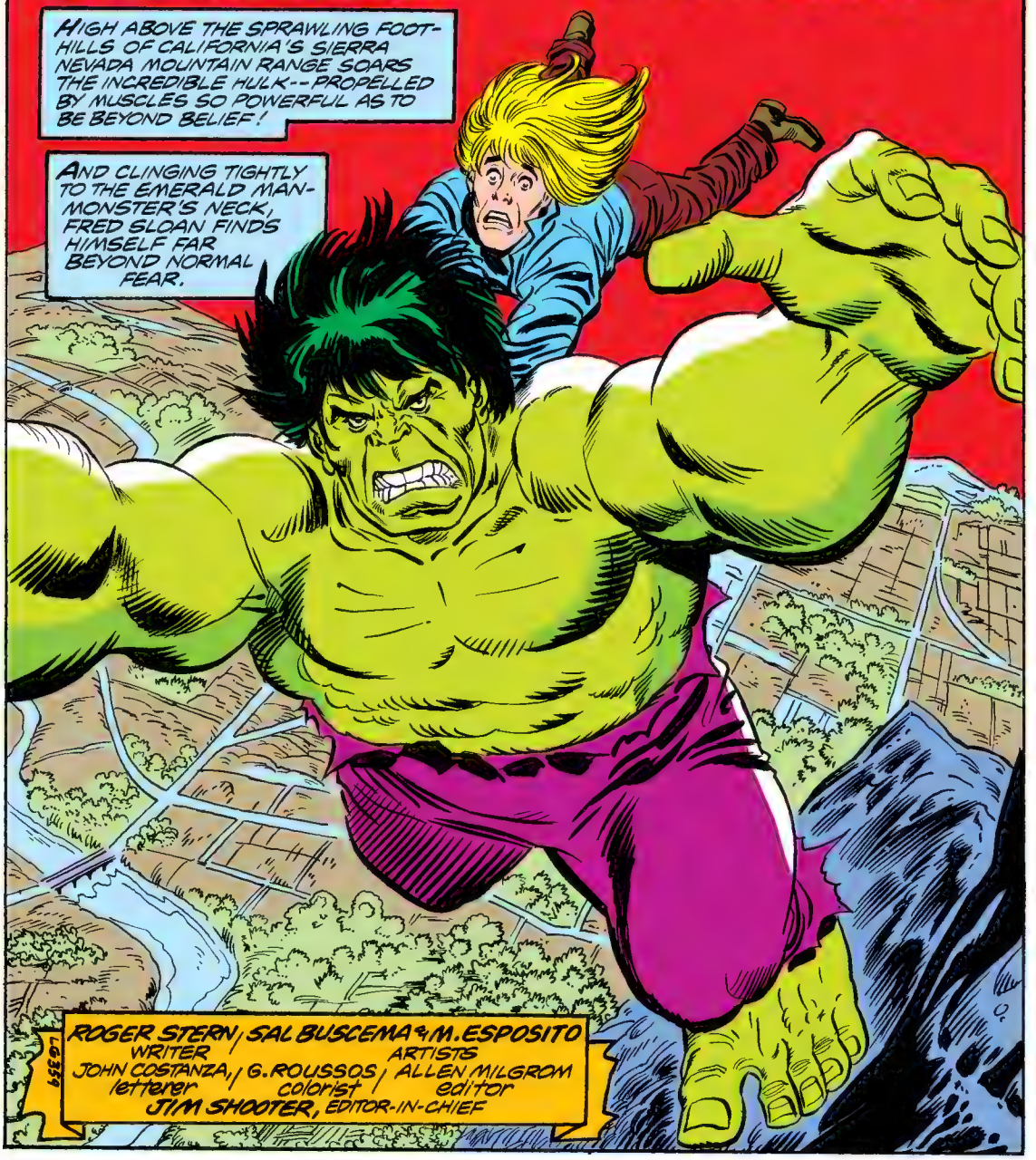
THE MONSTER AND THE MACHINE


HIGH ABOVE THE SPRAWLING FOOTHILLS OF CALIFORNIA'S SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAIN RANGE SOARS THE INCREDIBLE HULK--PROPELLED BY MUSCLES SO POWERFUL AS TO BE BEYOND BELIEF!
AND CLINGING TIGHTLY TO THE EMERALD MAN-MONSTER'S NECK, FRED SLOAN FINDS HIMSELF FAR BEYOND NORMAL FEAR.

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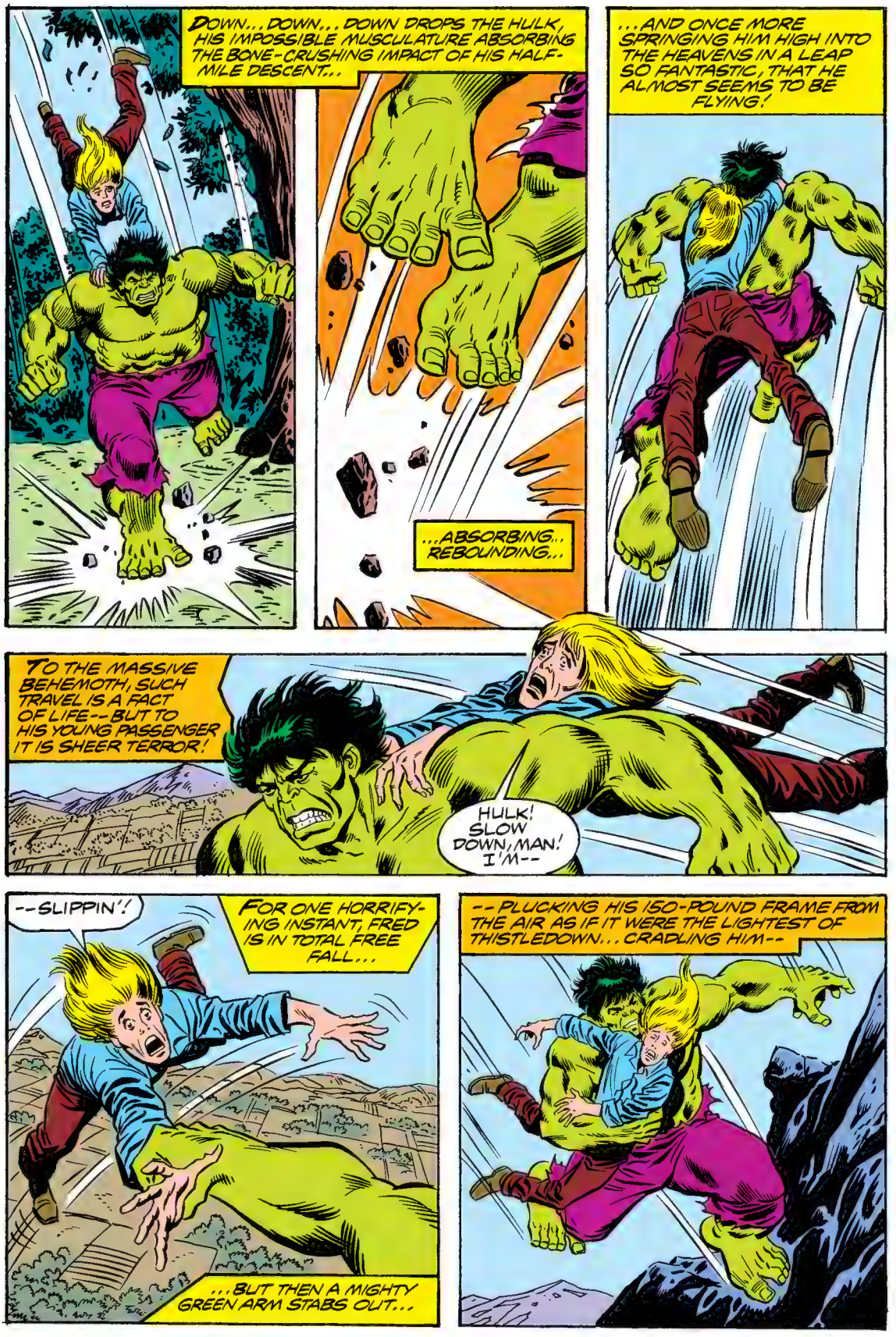
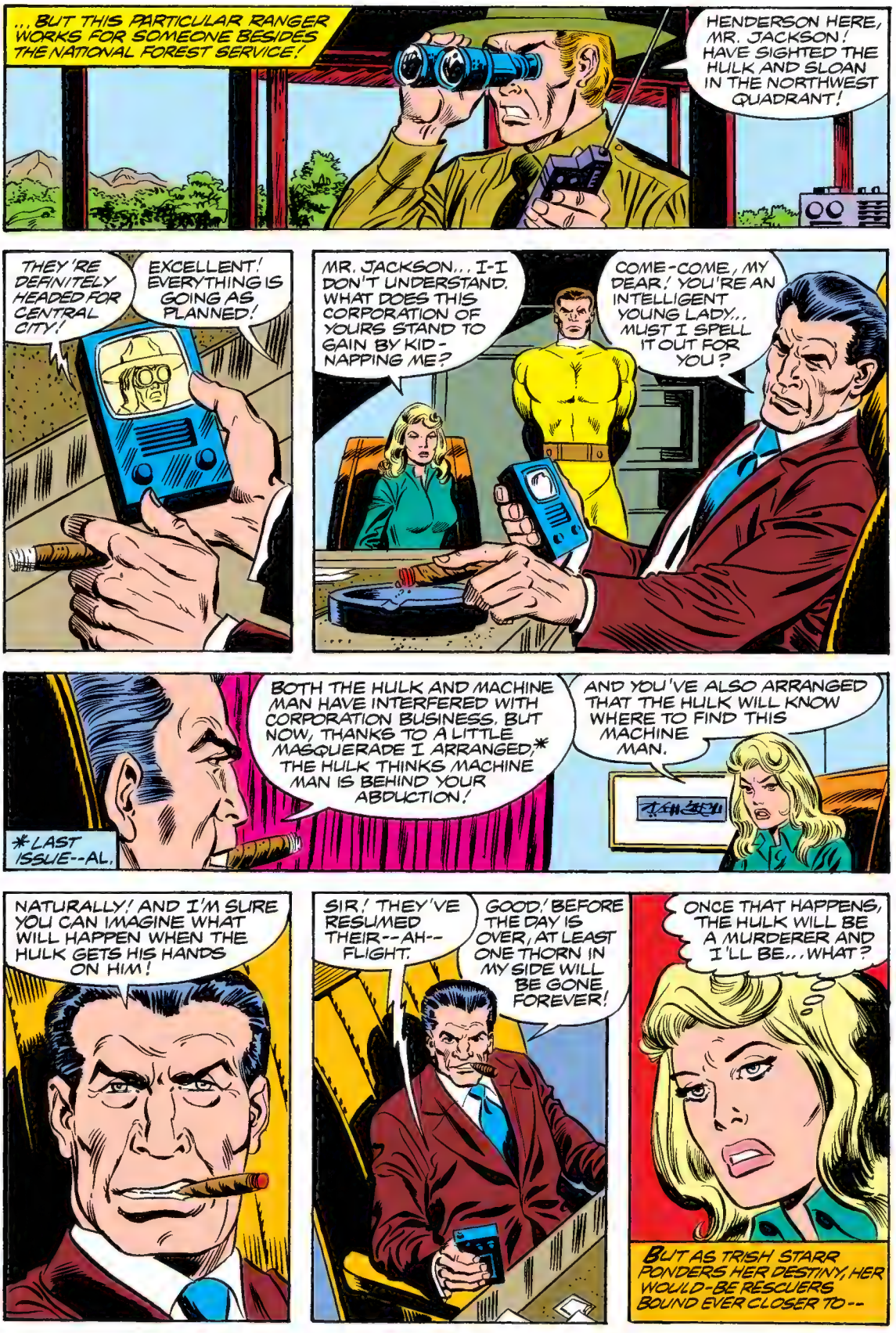
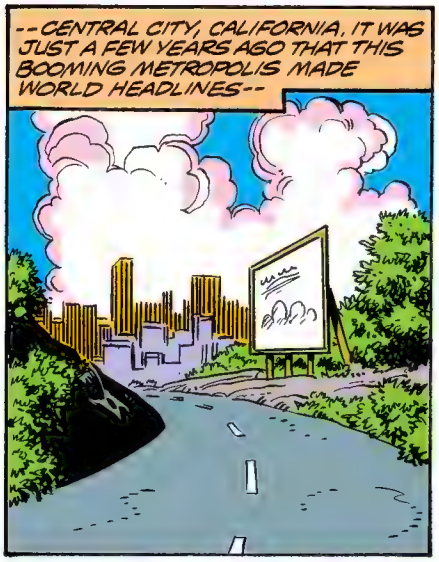
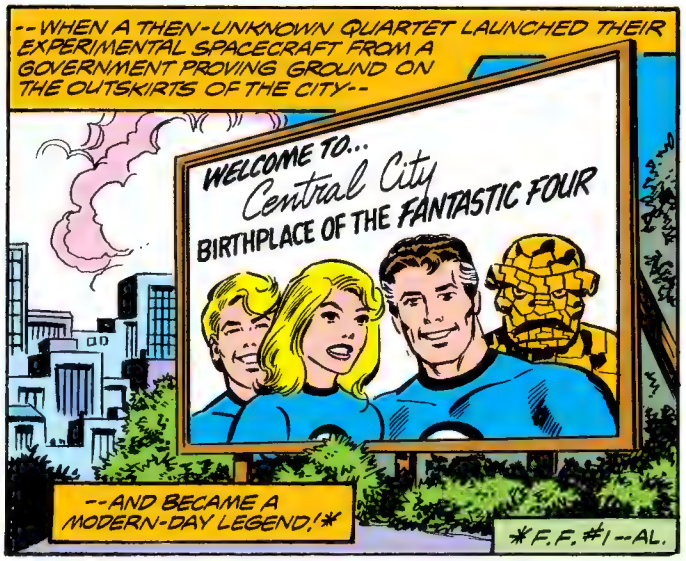
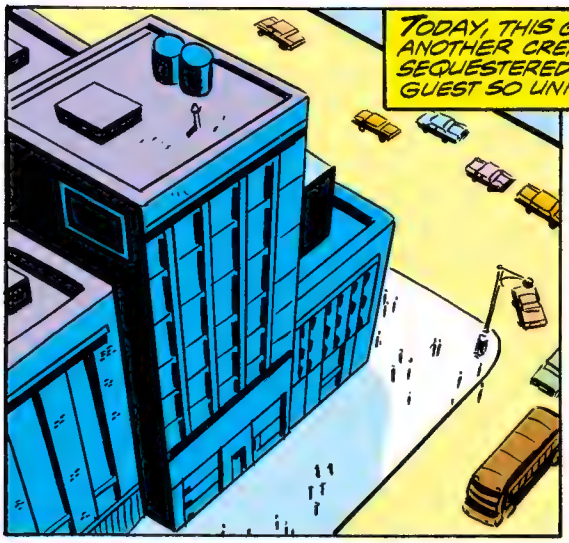

DOWN... DOWN... DOWN DROPS THE HULK, HIS IMPOSSIBLE MUSCULATURE ABSORBING THE BONE-CRUSHING IMPACT OF HIS HALF-MILE DESCENT...
...ABSORBING... REBOUNDING...
...AND ONCE MORE SPRINGING HIM HIGH INTO THE HEAVENS IN A LEAP SO FANTASTIC, THAT HE ALMOST SEEMS TO BE FLYING!
TO THE MASSIVE BEHEMOTH, SUCH TRAVEL IS A FACT OF LIFE--BUT TO HIS YOUNG PASSENGER IT IS SHEER TERROR!
HULK! SLOW DOWN, MAN! I'M--
--SLIPPIN'!
FOR ONE HORRIFYING INSTANT, FRED IS IN TOTAL FREE FALL...
...BUT THEN A MIGHTY GREEN ARM STABS OUT...
--PLUCKING HIS 150-POUND FRAME FROM THE AIR AS IF IT WERE THE LIGHTEST OF THISTLEDOWN... CRADLING HIM--

--FROM DEADLY CONTACT WITH THE EARTH BELOW!
OH, WOW.
HUNH! YOU WILL BE ALL RIGHT, FRED. HULK WILL NOT LET YOU GET HURT.
HULK HAS CARRIED MANY THIS WAY.
Y-YEAH, I DON'T DOUBT IT, HULK. I-IT JUST TAKES A LITTLE GETTING USED TO. LET'S REST HERE A FEW MINUTES--
--AND CHECK OUR BEARINGS AGAINST THE ROAD MAP. IF WE'RE GONNA RESCUE TRISH FROM THAT MACHINE MAN CREEP, WE DON'T WANT TO OVER-SHOOT HIS CENTRAL CITY HANG-OUT.
NO! HULK MUST FIND MACHINE MAN--AND SMASH HIM!
I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE COMIN' FROM, HULK! NOW, LET'S SEE... WE PASSED MODESTO ABOUT 12 MILES BACK...
BUT AS FRED PORES OVER HIS BATTERED MAP, HE IS UNAWARE THAT HIS EVERY MOVE IS BEING OBSERVED FROM A NEAR-BY FOREST RANGER TOWER.
ORDINARILY, THERE WOULD BE NOTHING ODD ABOUT THIS... IT IS, AFTER ALL, A RANGER'S JOB TO KEEP WATCH ON THIS FOREST...


...BUT THIS PARTICULAR RANGER WORKS FOR SOMEONE BESIDES THE NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE!
HENDERSON HERE, MR. JACKSON! HAVE SIGHTED THE HULK AND SLOAN IN THE NORTHWEST QUADRANT!
THEY'RE DEFINITELY HEADED FOR CENTRAL CITY!
EXCELLENT! EVERYTHING IS GOING AS PLANNED!
MR. JACKSON... I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT DOES THIS CORPORATION OF YOURS STAND TO GAIN BY KIDNAPPING ME?
COME-COME, MY DEAR! YOU'RE AN INTELLIGENT YOUNG LADY... MUST I SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU?
BOTH THE HULK AND MACHINE MAN HAVE INTERFERED WITH CORPORATION BUSINESS. BUT NOW, THANKS TO A LITTLE MASQUERADE I ARRANGED,* THE HULK THINKS MACHINE MAN IS BEHIND YOUR ABDUCTION!
AND YOU'VE ALSO ARRANGED THAT THE HULK WILL KNOW WHERE TO FIND THIS MACHINE MAN.
*LAST ISSUE--AL.
NATURALLY! AND I'M SURE YOU CAN IMAGINE WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE HULK GETS HIS HANDS ON HIM!
SIR! THEY'VE RESUMED THEIR--AH-- FLIGHT.
GOOD! BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER, AT LEAST ONE THORN IN MY SIDE WILL BE GONE, FOREVER!
ONCE THAT HAPPENS, THE HULK WILL BE A MURDERER AND I'LL BE... WHAT?
BUT AS TRISH STARR PONDERS HER DESTINY, HER WOULD-BE RESCUERS BOUND EVER CLOSER TO--


--CENTRAL CITY, CALIFORNIA, IT WAS JUST A FEW YEARS AGO THAT THIS BOOMING METROPOLIS MADE WORLD HEADLINES--

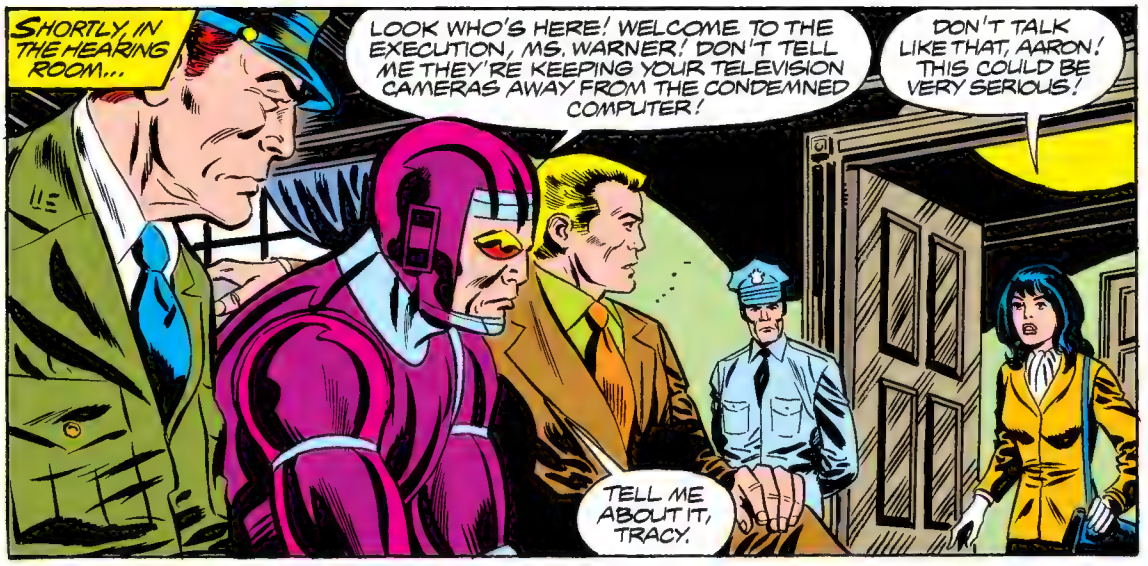

--WHEN A THEN-UNKNOWN QUARTET LAUNCHED THEIR EXPERIMENTAL SPACECRAFT FROM A GOVERNMENT PROVING GROUND ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY--
WELCOME TO... Central City
BIRTHPLACE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR
--AND BECAME A MODERN-DAY LEGEND!*
*F.F. #1 --AL.

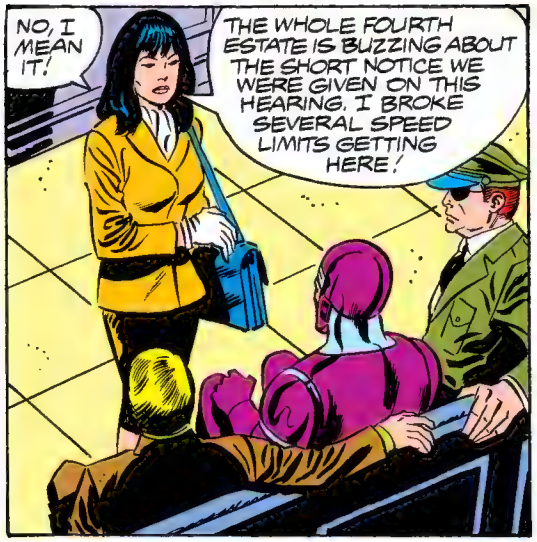

TODAY, THIS GLEAMING URBAN CENTER PLAYS HOST TO ANOTHER CREATION OF THE SPACE AGE... FOR, TEMPORARILY SEQUESTERED IN A ROOM AT THE HOTEL MARIPOSA IS A GUEST SO UNIQUE--
--THAT HIS VERY HUMANITY IS IN QUESTION.

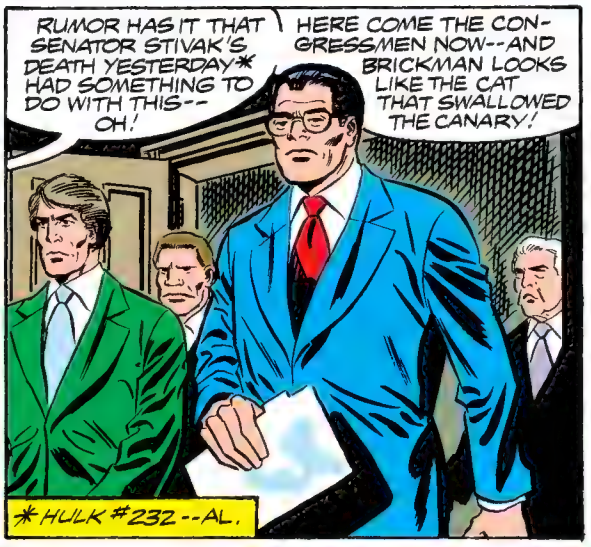
THIS IS AARON STACK, THE FABLED MACHINE MAN--SOLE SURVIVOR OF AN ILL-FATED SECRET PROJECT TO DEVELOPE A THINKING MACHINE.
NOK NOK
COME IN!

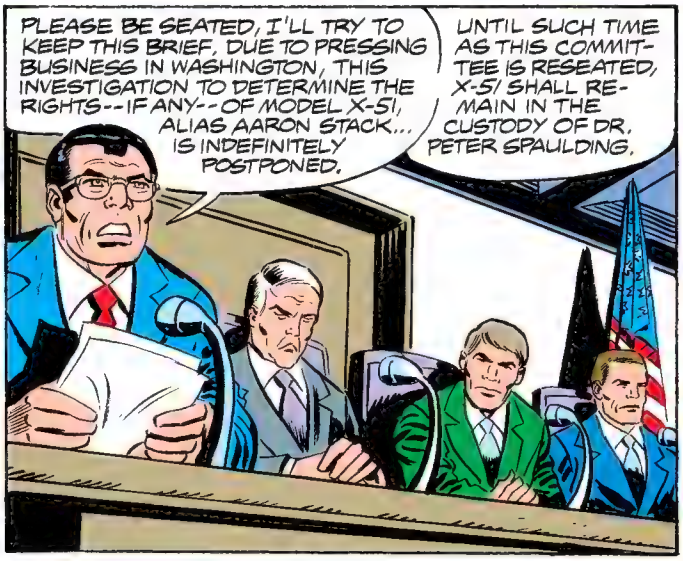
COME ON, AARON--WE HAVE TO... GO?
GOOD LORD!
BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE, PETER.

A GENTLE SMILE SLOWLY GROWS ACROSS DR. PETER SPAULDING'S FACE. IN THE FEW WEEKS HE HAS KNOWN THE MACHINE MAN, HE'S COME TO EXPECT THE UNUSUAL.
FOR THE MAN FROM THE MILITARY, IT STILL TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO.
WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING?
JUST A LITTLE REPAIR WORK, COLONEL KRAGG--NOTHING TO GET ALARMED ABOUT!
I WAS STILL CARRYING AROUND A FEW DAMAGED CIRCUITS FROM THE DAY WHEN YOUR TROOPS HIT ME WITH THEIR SONIC GUNS. *
BUT NOW, WITH A BIT OF SPOT WELDING FROM MY WEAPONS SYSTEMS...
* MACHINE MAN #1--AL.
...THERE! EVERYTHING'S AS GOOD AS NEW! NOW, YOU WERE SAYING, PETER?
SNAP
WE'VE GOT TO GET OVER TO THE FEDERAL BUILDING, AARON. BRICKMAN WANTS US AT THE HEARINGS!
WELL, WE MUSTN'T KEEP THE CONGRESSMEN WAITING... NOT WHEN THEY'RE DECIDING WHETHER I LIVE OR DIE!


SHORTLY, IN THE HEARING ROOM...
LOOK WHO'S HERE! WELCOME TO THE EXECUTION, MS. WARNER! DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE KEEPING YOUR TELEVISION CAMERAS AWAY FROM THE CONDEMNED COMPUTER!
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT, AARON! THIS COULD BE VERY SERIOUS!
TELL ME ABOUT IT, TRACY.

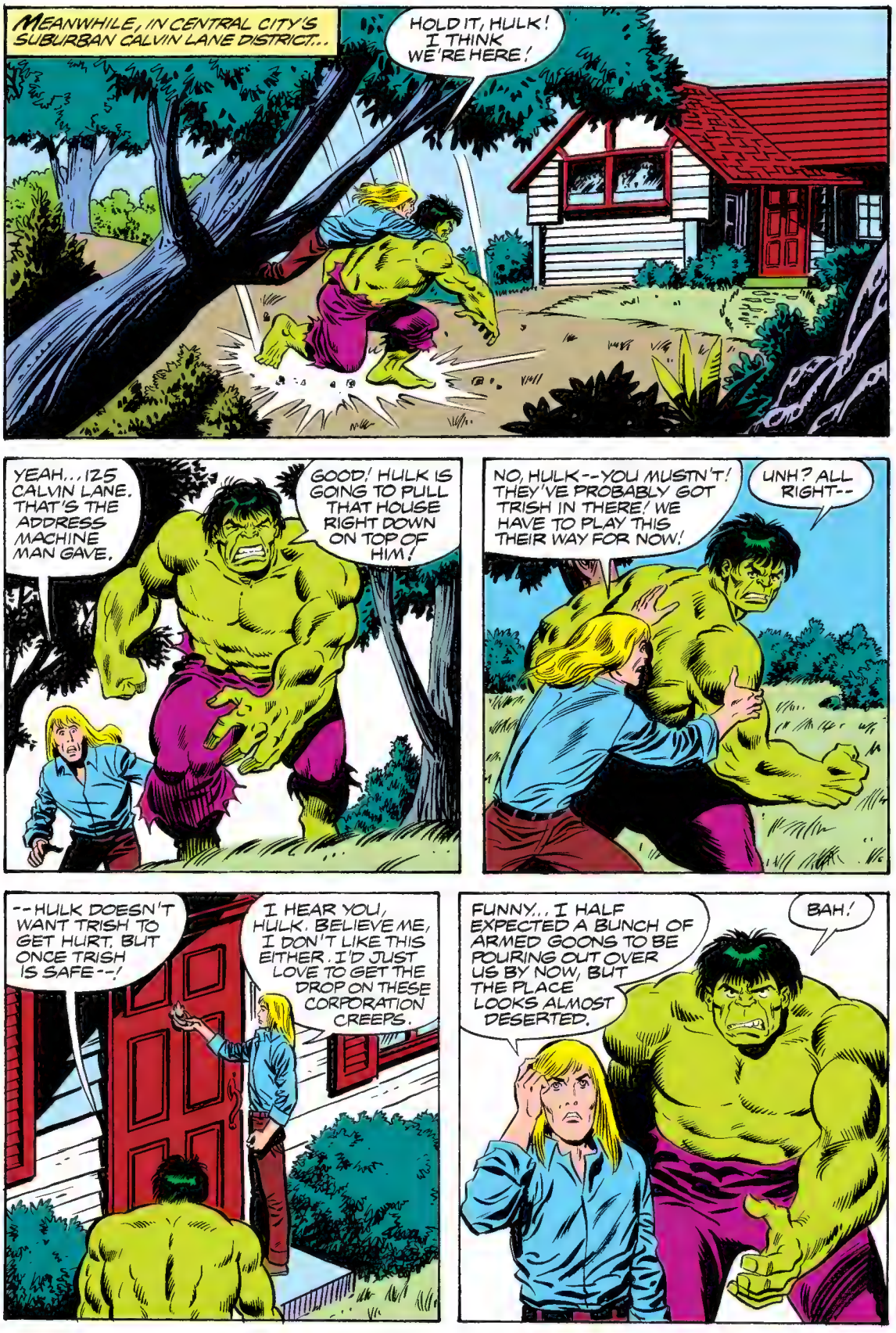

NO, I MEAN IT!
THE WHOLE FOURTH ESTATE IS BUZZING ABOUT THE SHORT NOTICE WE WERE GIVEN ON THIS HEARING. I BROKE SEVERAL SPEED LIMITS GETTING HERE!


RUMOR HAS IT THAT SENATOR STIVAK'S DEATH YESTERDAY* HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS-- OH!
HERE COME THE CONGRESSMEN NOW--AND BRICKMAN LOOKS LIKE THE CAT THAT SWALLOWED THE CANARY!
*HULK #232--AL.

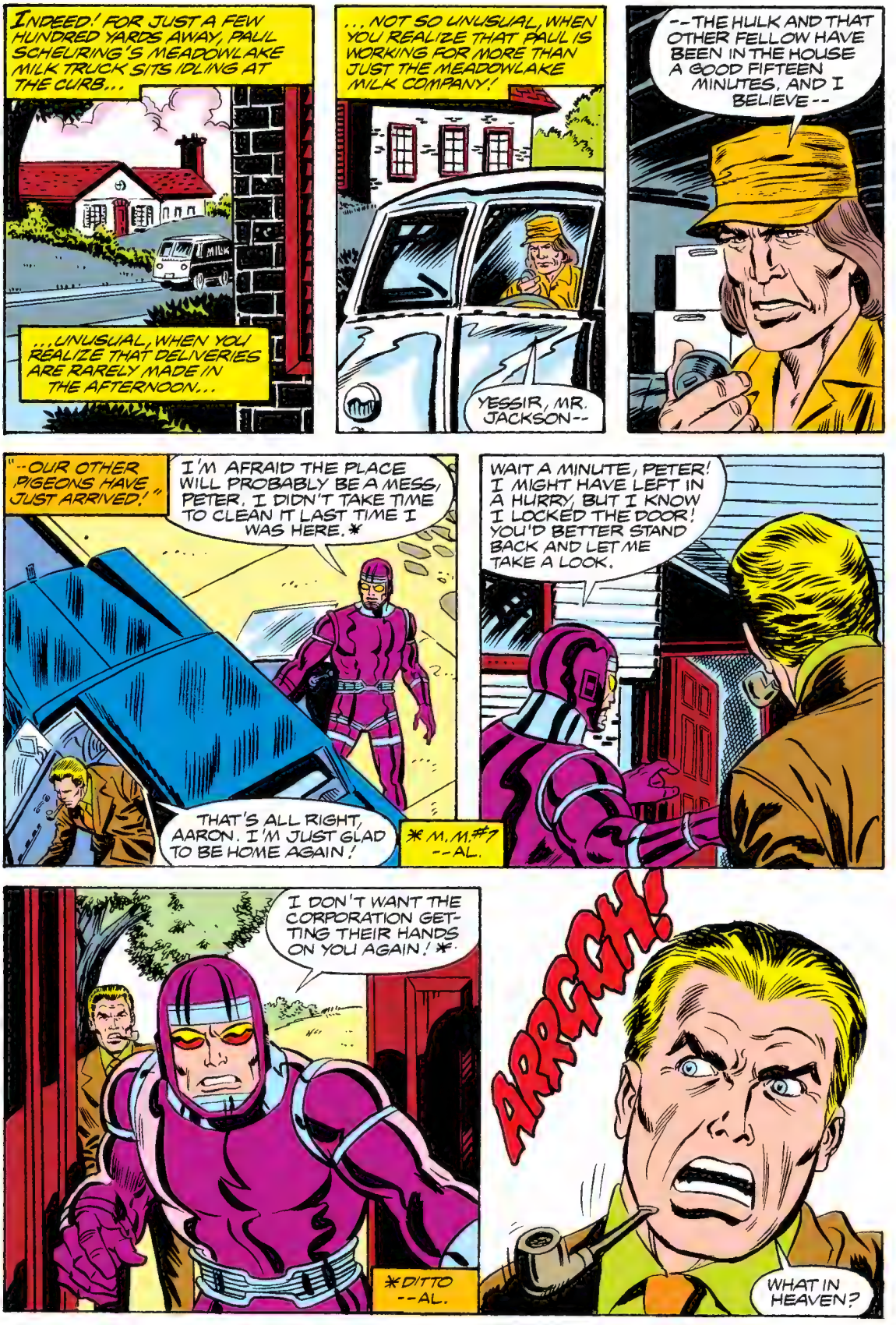

PLEASE BE SEATED, I'LL TRY TO KEEP THIS BRIEF. DUE TO PRESSING BUSINESS IN WASHINGTON, THIS INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE RIGHTS--IF ANY--OF MODEL X-51, ALIAS AARON STACK... IS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THIS COMMITTEE IS RESEATED, X-51 SHALL REMAIN IN THE CUSTODY OF DR. PETER SPAULDING.

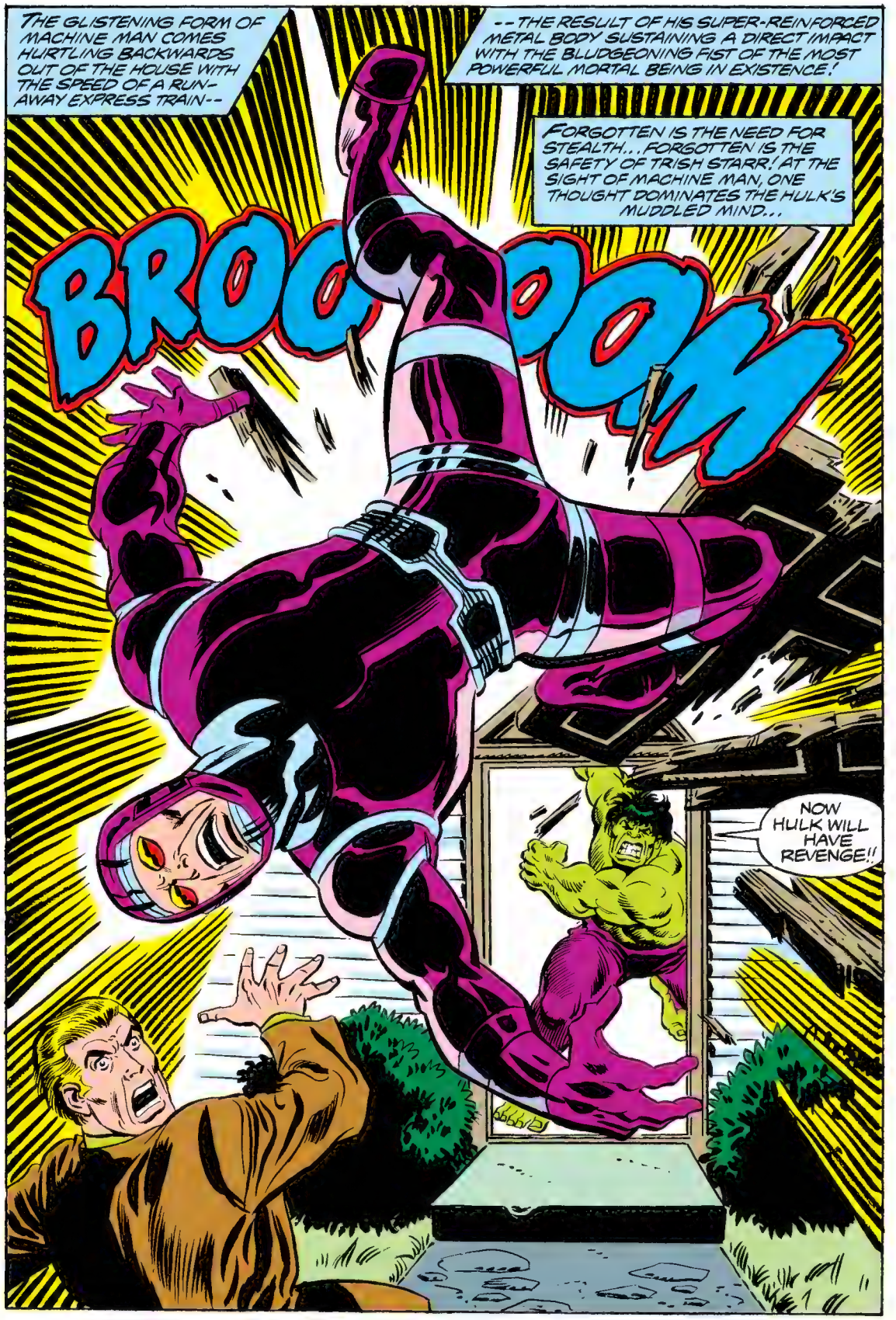
I HEREBY DECLARE THIS MEETING ADJOURNED.
WHAP!

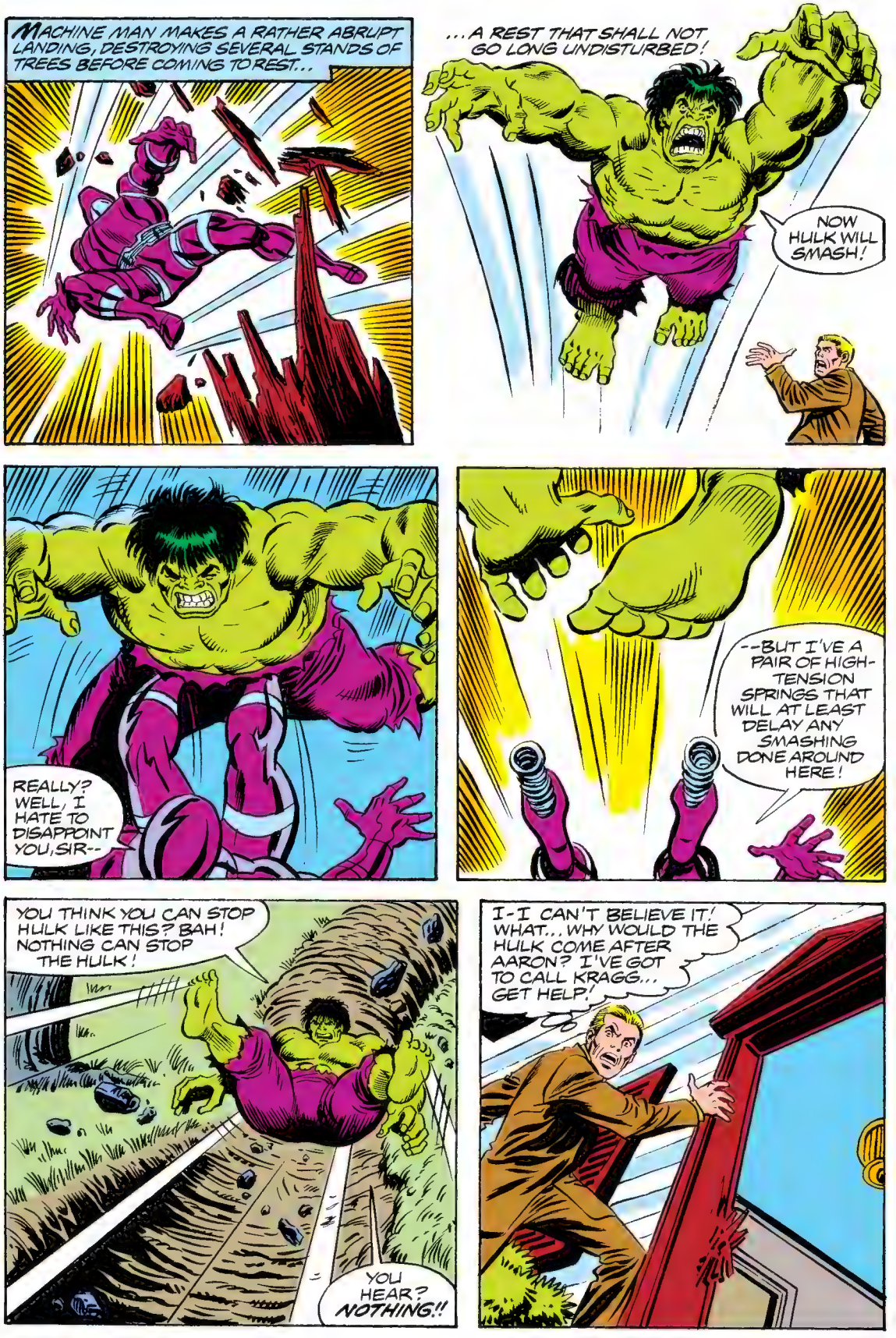
THAT'S IT? YOU MEAN I'M FREE TO GO?!
OH, AARON! I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE JUST MADE YOU A DE FACTO HUMAN BEING, OLD BUDDY!
CONGRATULATIONS, SON. I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES, BUT... WELL, I WANT TO WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.
THANK YOU, COLONEL, BUT I ALMOST WISH THE HEARINGS HAD CONTINUED.
YOU HEARD BRICKMAN... ANY TIME THE GOVERNMENT FEELS LIKE IT, THEY CAN RECONVENE A COMMITTEE AND QUITE LITERALLY TURN MY POWER OFF!
BUT, AT THIS MOMENT, THE CONGRESSMEN HAVE OTHER THINGS ON THEIR MINDS...
IN A HURRY TO GET BACK TO THE HILL, BRICKMAN? OR SHOULD I SAY... SENATOR BRICKMAN?
STIVAK'S DEATH WAS AN UNEXPECTED BLESSING, WASN'T IT, BRICKMAN? I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT THE GOVERNOR WOULD PICK YOU TO SERVE OUT HIS TERM!
NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRUCIFY MACHINE MAN TO BUILD YOUR CAREER.
JEALOUS, BOYS?
JUST WATCH YOUR STEP, SON. I'M TOLD THAT STIVAK WAS MIXED UP IN A PRETTY SORDID MESS!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME, GENTLEMEN. I'M NOT ABOUT TO MAKE THE MISTAKE STIVAK MADE.
I WON'T GET CAUGHT!

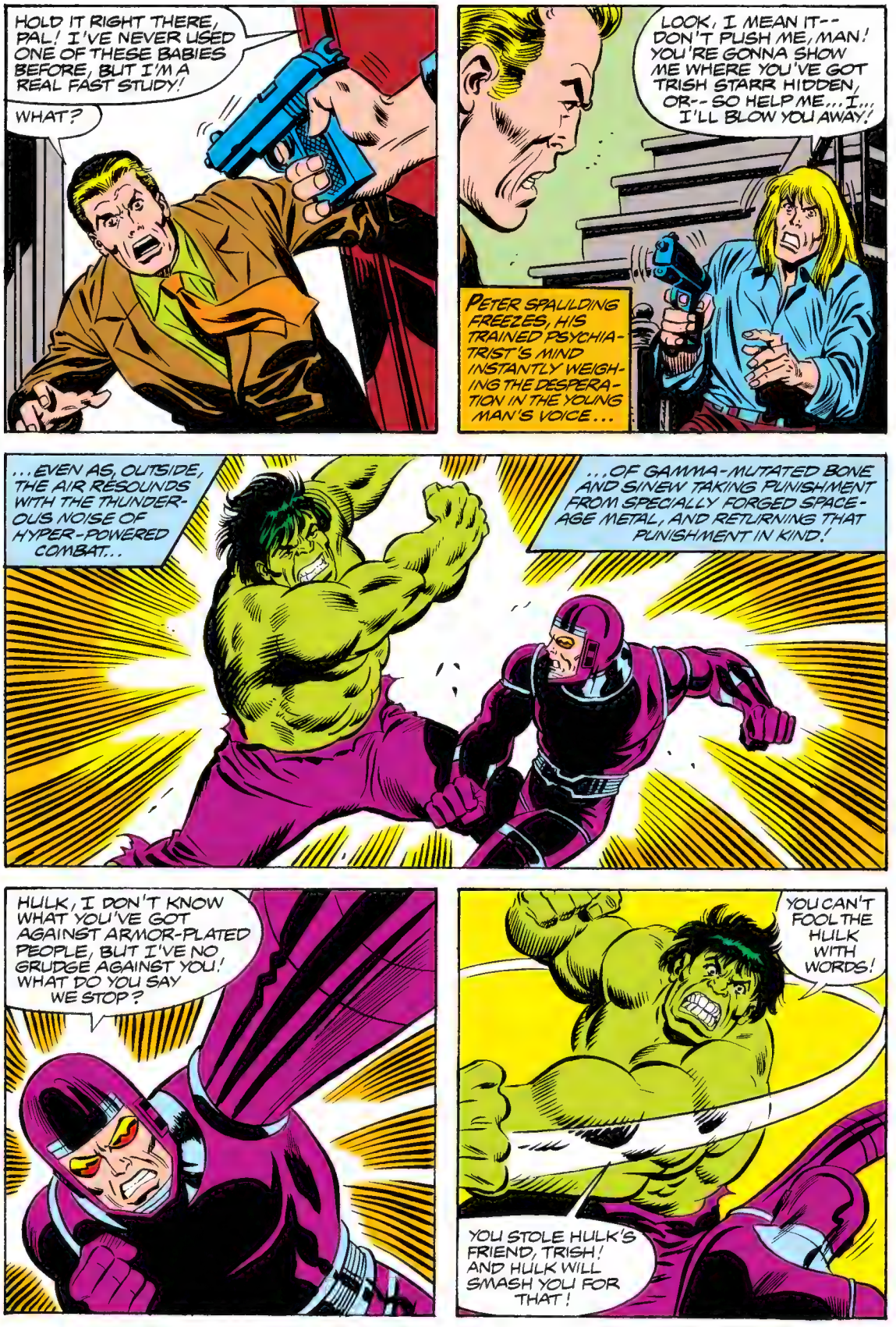

MEANWHILE, IN CENTRAL CITY'S SUBURBAN CALVIN LANE DISTRICT...
HOLD IT, HULK! I THINK WE'RE HERE!
YEAH... 125 CALVIN LANE. THAT'S THE ADDRESS MACHINE MAN GAVE.
GOOD! HULK IS GOING TO PULL THAT HOUSE RIGHT DOWN ON TOP OF HIM!
NO, HULK--YOU MUSTN'T! THEY'VE PROBABLY GOT TRISH IN THERE! WE HAVE TO PLAY THIS THEIR WAY FOR NOW!
UNH? ALL RIGHT--
--HULK DOESN'T WANT TRISH TO GET HURT. BUT ONCE TRISH IS SAFE--!
I HEAR YOU, HULK. BELIEVE ME, I DON'T LIKE THIS EITHER. I'D JUST LOVE TO GET THE DROP ON THESE CORPORATION CREEPS.
FUNNY... I HALF EXPECTED A BUNCH OF ARMED GOONS TO BE POURING OUT OVER US BY NOW, BUT THE PLACE LOOKS ALMOST DESERTED.
BAH!

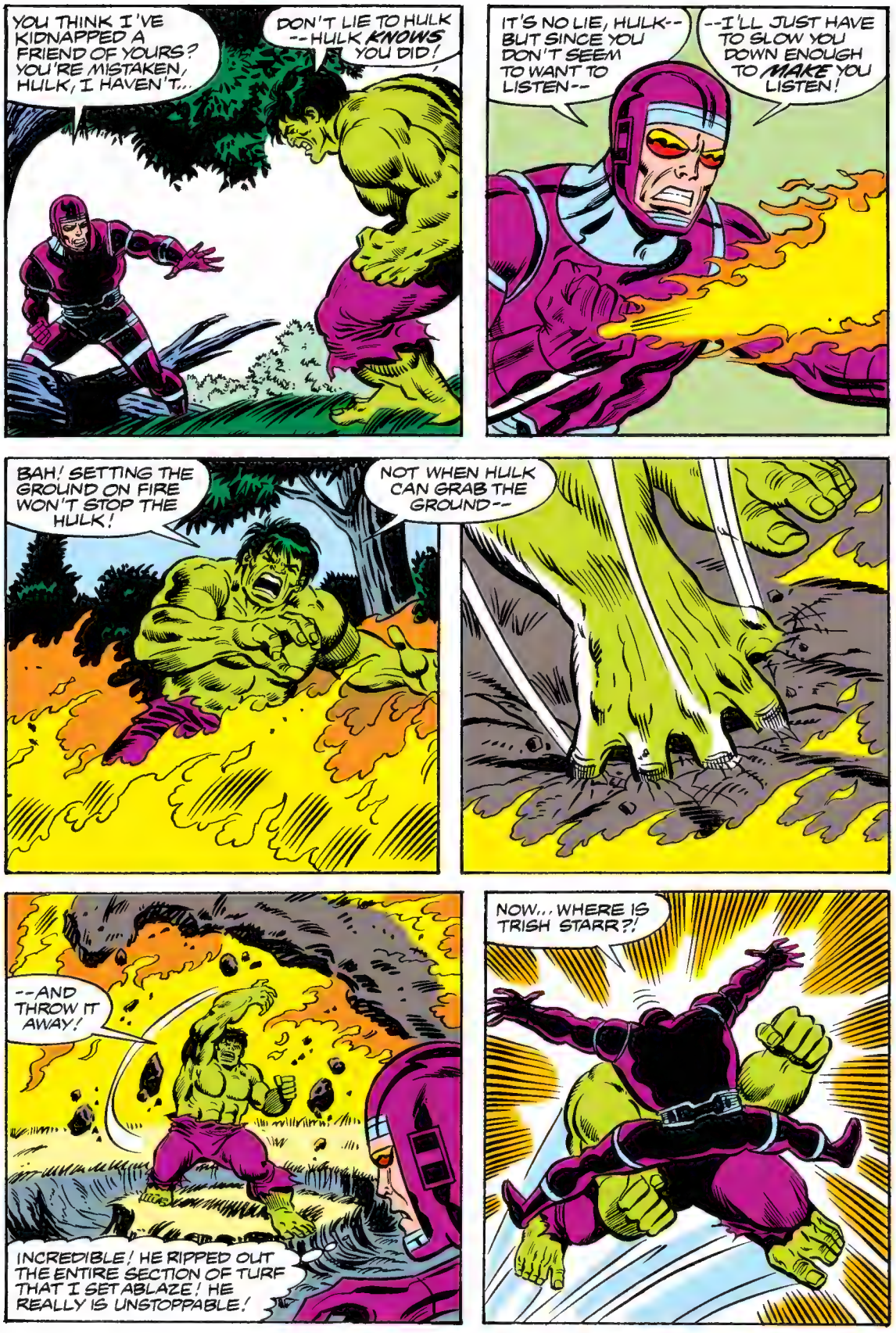
HULK WILL GET US IN!
AND WITH THE MOST EFFORTLESS OF MOVEMENTS, THE JADE-SKINNED POWERHOUSE NUDGES THE LOCK TO BITS.
SPROING
HELLO? IT'S US, YOUR VICTIMS! TIME TO SPRING THE TRAP!
WHERE IS TRISH? WHERE IS MACHINE MAN?!
NOTHING. THIS IS DEFINITELY ODD.
BEATS ME, HULK! MAYBE THE CORPORATION IS JUST SETTING US UP FOR A BREAKING-AND-ENTERING CHARGE.
NO, WHAT AM I SAYING? THAT'S RIDICULOUS, THEY... WHAT'S THIS?
A PROFESSIONAL-TYPE OFFICE! AND THE DIPLOMA ON THE WALL SAYS DOCTOR PETER SPAULDING... A SHRINK, NO LESS!
UNH?
WHY WOULD DOCTOR HELP STEAL TRISH?
I DON'T KNOW, HULK. EVERYTHING HERE SEEMS PERFECTLY INNOCENT.
UH-OH, I SPOKE TOO SOON!
YOUR ORDINARY, LAW-ABIDING SHRINK DOESN'T KEEP A DRAWERFUL OF NASTY-LOOKING HIGH-CALIBER PISTOLS.
THESE CORPORATION GUYS ARE EVERY-WHERE!


INDEED! FOR JUST A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY, PAUL SCHEURING'S MEADOWLAKE MILK TRUCK SITS IDLING AT THE CURB...
...UNUSUAL, WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT DELIVERIES ARE RARELY MADE IN THE AFTERNOON...
...NOT SO UNUSUAL, WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT PAUL IS WORKING FOR MORE THAN JUST THE MEADOWLAKE MILK COMPANY!
YESSIR, MR. JACKSON--
--THE HULK AND THAT OTHER FELLOW HAVE BEEN IN THE HOUSE A GOOD FIFTEEN MINUTES, AND I BELIEVE--
"--OUR OTHER PIGEONS HAVE JUST ARRIVED!"
I'M AFRAID THE PLACE WILL PROBABLY BE A MESS, PETER. I DIDN'T TAKE TIME TO CLEAN IT LAST TIME I WAS HERE.*
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, AARON. I'M JUST GLAD TO BE HOME AGAIN!
*M.M.#7 --AL.
WAIT A MINUTE, PETER! I MIGHT HAVE LEFT IN A HURRY, BUT I KNOW I LOCKED THE DOOR! YOU'D BETTER STAND BACK AND LET ME TAKE A LOOK.
I DON'T WANT THE CORPORATION GETTING THEIR HANDS ON YOU AGAIN!*
*DITTO --AL.
ARRGH!
WHAT IN HEAVEN?

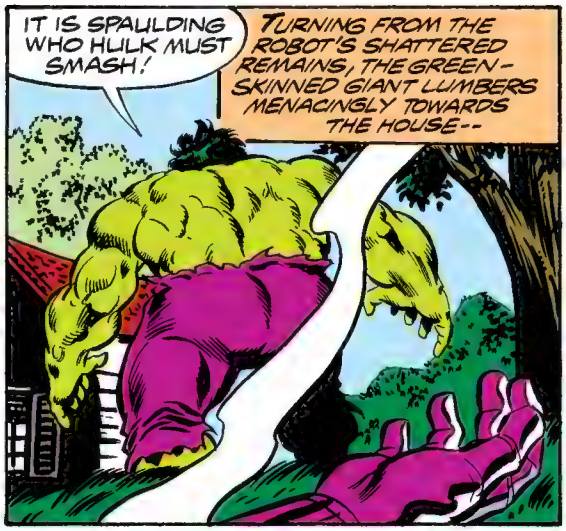

THE GLISTENING FORM OF MACHINE MAN COMES HURTLING BACKWARDS OUT OF THE HOUSE WITH THE SPEED OF A RUN-AWAY EXPRESS TRAIN--
--THE RESULT OF HIS SUPER-REINFORCED METAL BODY SUSTAINING A DIRECT IMPACT WITH THE BLUDGEONING FIST OF THE MOST POWERFUL MORTAL BEING IN EXISTENCE!
FORGOTTEN IS THE NEED FOR STEALTH... FORGOTTEN IS THE SAFETY OF TRISH STARR! AT THE SIGHT OF MACHINE MAN, ONE THOUGHT DOMINATES THE HULK'S MUDDLED MIND...
BROOOOM
NOW HULK WILL HAVE REVENGE!!

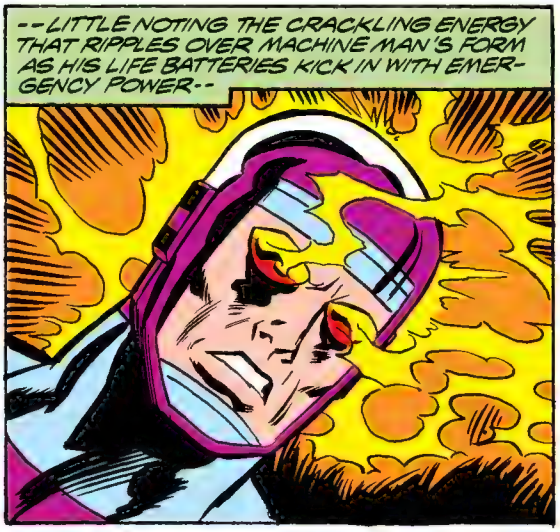

MACHINE MAN MAKES A RATHER ABRUPT LANDING, DESTROYING SEVERAL STANDS OF TREES BEFORE COMING TO REST...
...A REST THAT SHALL NOT GO LONG UNDISTURBED!
NOW HULK WILL SMASH!
REALLY? WELL, I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, SIR--
--BUT I'VE A PAIR OF HIGH-TENSION SPRINGS THAT WILL AT LEAST DELAY ANY SMASHING DONE AROUND HERE!
YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP HULK LIKE THIS? BAH! NOTHING CAN STOP THE HULK!
YOU HEAR? NOTHING!!
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT... WHY WOULD THE HULK COME AFTER AARON? I'VE GOT TO CALL KRAGG... GET HELP!

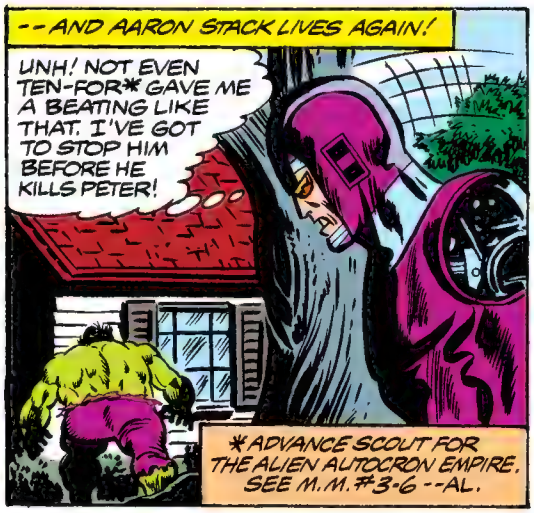

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, PAL! I'VE NEVER USED ONE OF THESE BABIES BEFORE, BUT I'M A REAL FAST STUDY!
WHAT?
LOOK, I MEAN IT-- DON'T PUSH ME, MAN! YOU'RE GONNA SHOW ME WHERE YOU'VE GOT TRISH STARR HIDDEN, OR-- SO HELP ME... I... I'LL BLOW YOU AWAY!
PETER SPAULDING FREEZES, HIS TRAINED PSYCHIATRIST'S MIND INSTANTLY WEIGHING THE DESPERATION IN THE YOUNG MAN'S VOICE...
...EVEN AS, OUTSIDE, THE AIR RESOUNDS WITH THE THUNDEROUS NOISE OF HYPER-POWERED COMBAT...
...OF GAMMA-MUTATED BONE AND SINEW TAKING PUNISHMENT FROM SPECIALLY FORGED SPACE-AGE METAL, AND RETURNING THAT PUNISHMENT IN KIND!
HULK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT AGAINST ARMOR-PLATED PEOPLE, BUT I'VE NO GRUDGE AGAINST YOU! WHAT DO YOU SAY WE STOP?
YOU CAN'T FOOL THE HULK WITH WORDS!
YOU STOLE HULK'S FRIEND, TRISH! AND HULK WILL SMASH YOU FOR THAT!

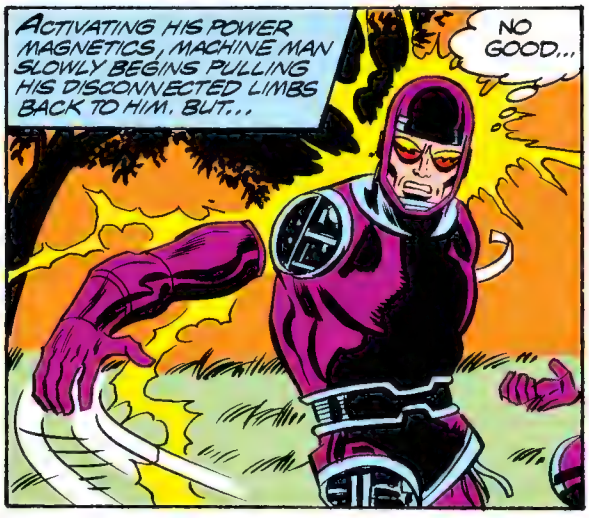

YOU THINK I'VE KIDNAPPED A FRIEND OF YOURS? YOU'RE MISTAKEN, HULK, I HAVEN'T...
DON'T LIE TO HULK --HULK KNOWS YOU DID!
IT'S NO LIE, HULK-- BUT SINCE YOU DON'T SEEM TO WANT TO LISTEN--
--I'LL JUST HAVE TO SLOW YOU DOWN ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU LISTEN!
BAH! SETTING THE GROUND ON FIRE WON'T STOP THE HULK!
NOT WHEN HULK CAN GRAB THE GROUND--
--AND THROW IT AWAY!
INCREDIBLE! HE RIPPED OUT THE ENTIRE SECTION OF TURF THAT I SET ABLAZE! HE REALLY IS UNSTOPPABLE!
NOW... WHERE IS TRISH STARR?!

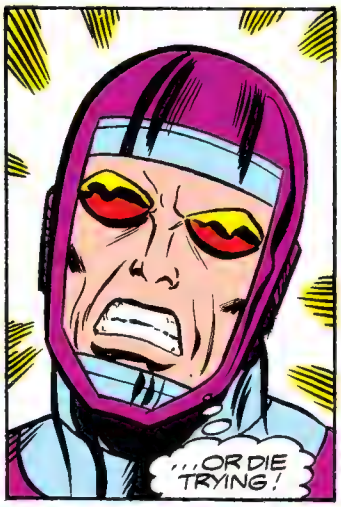
ANSWER HULK-- WHERE IS SHE?
KTANG
WHERE?!
KLUNG
"WHERE?!"
KTOONG
EH?
MACHINE MAN IS NOT A MAN AT ALL!
HE'S A ROBOT... JUST ANOTHER STUPID ROBOT!
THEN SPAULDING MUST HAVE TAKEN TRISH! YES... SPAULDING!


IT IS SPAULDING WHO HULK MUST SMASH!
TURNING FROM THE ROBOT'S SHATTERED REMAINS, THE GREEN-SKINNED GIANT LUMBERS MENACINGLY TOWARDS THE HOUSE--


--LITTLE NOTING THE CRACKLING ENERGY THAT RIPPLES OVER MACHINE MAN'S FORM AS HIS LIFE BATTERIES KICK IN WITH EMERGENCY POWER--


--AND AARON STACK LIVES AGAIN!
UNH! NOT EVEN TEN-FOR* GAVE ME A BEATING LIKE THAT. I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE KILLS PETER!
*ADVANCE SCOUT FOR THE ALIEN AUTOCRON EMPIRE. SEE M.M. #3-6 --AL.





NEXT

KILL OR BE KILLED!

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!
MAN MONSTER VS. MACHINE MAN!
KILL OR BE KILLED!
MILGROM

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

KILL OR BE KILLED!

LITERALLY BEATEN TO PIECES BY THE HULK MERE MOMENTS AGO,* AARON STACK--THE FAMED MACHINE MAN--HAS HURRIEDLY REASSEMBLED HIMSELF...

...RACING THE CLOCK IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO STOP THE RAMPAGING MAN-MONSTER FROM REACHING DR. PETER SPAULDING, A MAN THE HULK MISTAKENLY BELIEVES TO BE BEHIND THE KIDNAPPING OF TRISH STARR.**

UHN? ROBOT STILL WORKS?

ROGER STERN, WRITER
SAL BUSCEMA / ARTISTS
& M. ESPOSITO
JIM NOVAK, LETTERER
BOB SHAREN, COLORIST
ALLEN MILGROM, EDITOR
J. SHOOTER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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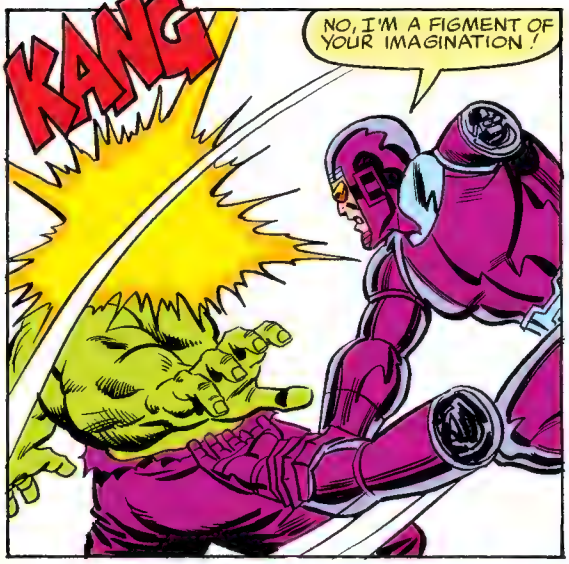
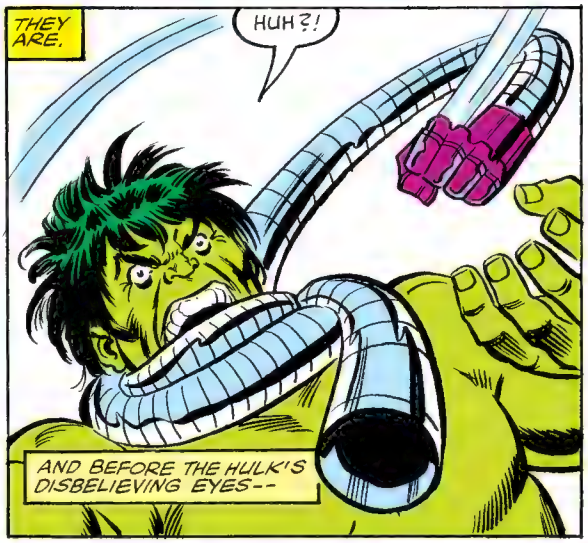
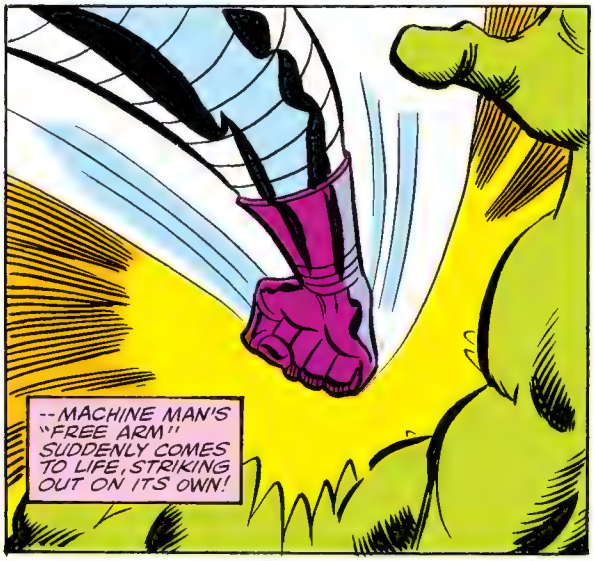
*LAST ISSUE
**HULK # 234--AL.


KANG
NO, I'M A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION!

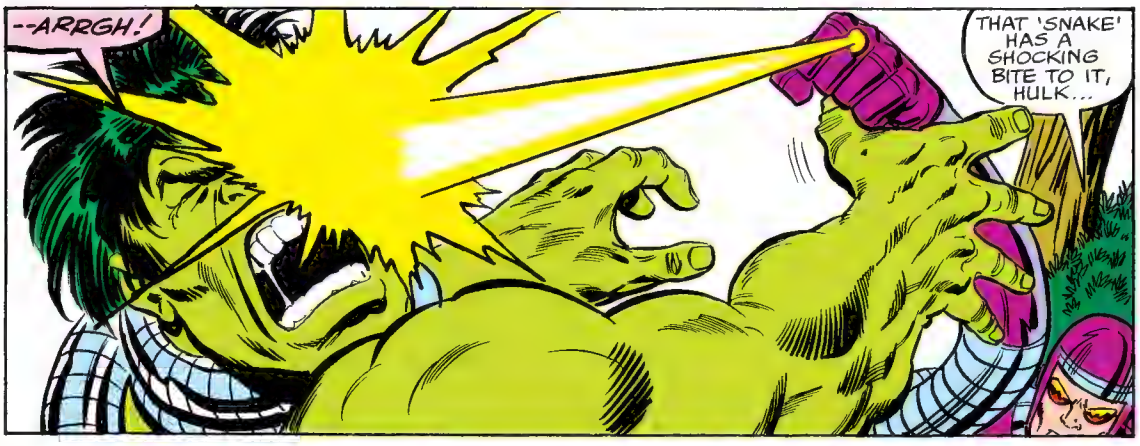
BAH! YOU MUST THINK THAT HULK DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT ROBOTS--
--BUT YOU ARE WRONG!
PTOONG

HULK HAS FOUGHT MANY ROBOTS... AND THEY ALL BREAK JUST THE SAME!
UGH! MY REMOTE CONTROL CIRCUITS HAD BETTER BE FUNCTIONING!


THEY ARE.
HUH?!
AND BEFORE THE HULK'S DISBELIEVING EYES--


--MACHINE MAN'S "FREE ARM" SUDDENLY COMES TO LIFE, STRIKING OUT ON ITS OWN!

SO, TRICK ARM THINKS IT'S A SNAKE, EH? BAH! HULK WILL STILL--


--ARRGH!
THAT 'SNAKE' HAS A SHOCKING BITE TO IT, HULK...

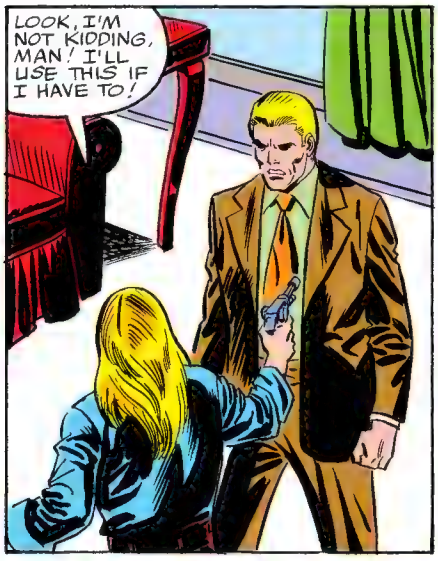
NOT THAT I EXPECT IT TO GIVE YOU TROUBLE FOR LONG...
...BUT IT WILL BE LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO RECLAIM MY ARM ASSEMBLY!

NOW THEN, HULK... WHERE WERE WE?
BUT EVEN AS MACHINE MAN GLIBLY TRIES TO DISTRACT THE HULK FROM HIS INTENDED TARGET--

--THAT TARGET HAS NOT EXACTLY BEEN UNAWARE OF THE FUROR HE HAS CAUSED.
BUT WHY? WHY US?!

C'MON, SPAULDING, DON'T LAY THE INNOCENCE TRIP ON ME--CAUSE THIS POPGUN I FOUND IN YOUR ARSENAL JUST SCREAMS "GUILTY!"
NOW, I WANT SOME ANSWERS!
OH, YOU DO, DO YOU?

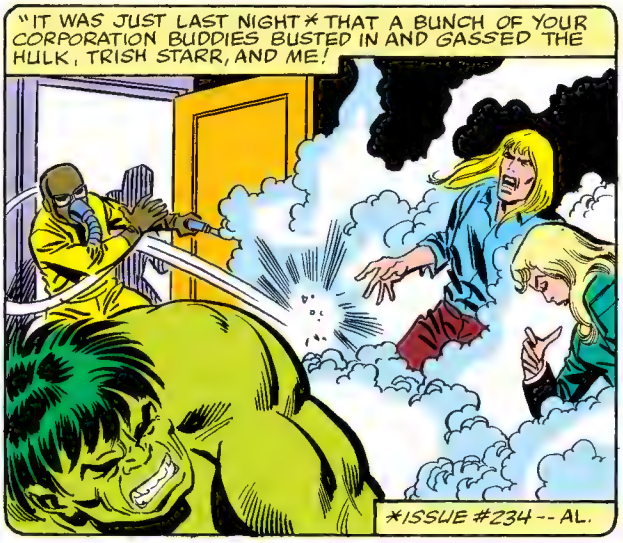
WELL, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANY UNTIL YOU START TALKING SENSE!


LOOK, I'M NOT KIDDING, MAN! I'LL USE THIS IF I HAVE TO!

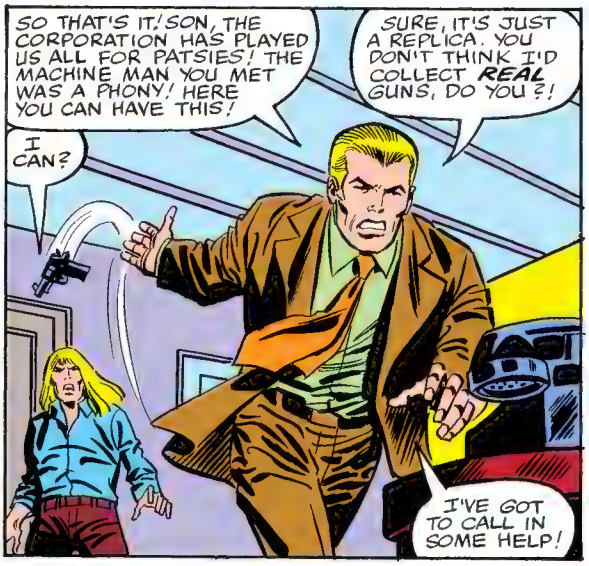
ALL RIGHT, THEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO AHEAD AND GET IT OVER WITH!
HEY, D-DON'T FORCE ME! I MEAN IT, I... I...

...I CAN'T.
I DIDN'T THINK SO.

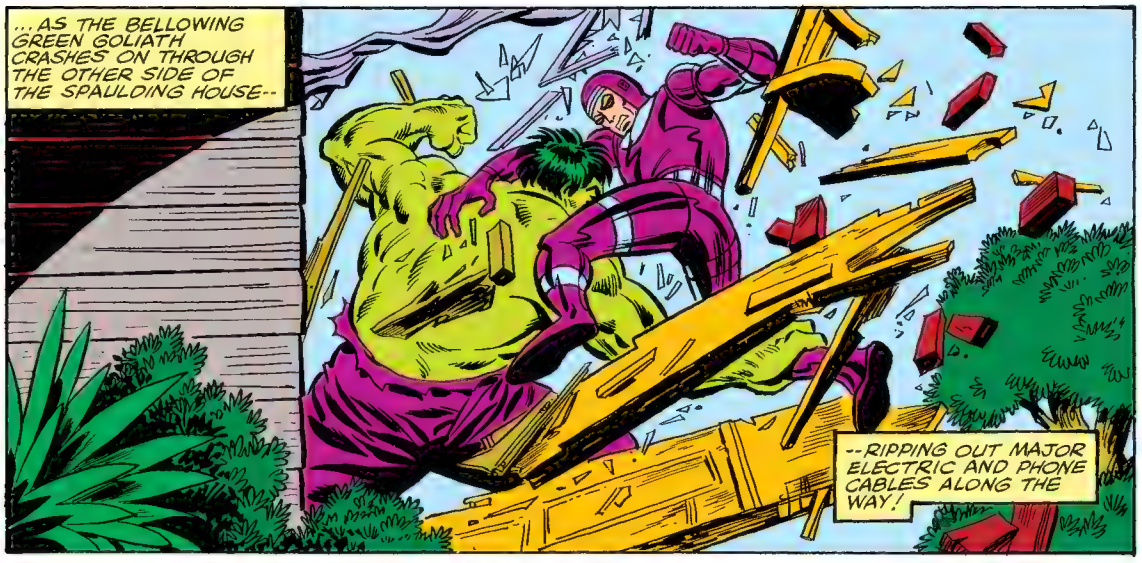
NOW, MR. SLOAN, FROM THE TOP--JUST WHAT IS IT YOU THINK I'VE DONE TO YOU?
DON'T HAND ME THAT, MAN! YOU KNOW DARN WELL!


"IT WAS JUST LAST NIGHT* THAT A BUNCH OF YOUR CORPORATION BUDDIES BUSTED IN AND GASSED THE HULK, TRISH STARR, AND ME!
*ISSUE #234 -- AL.

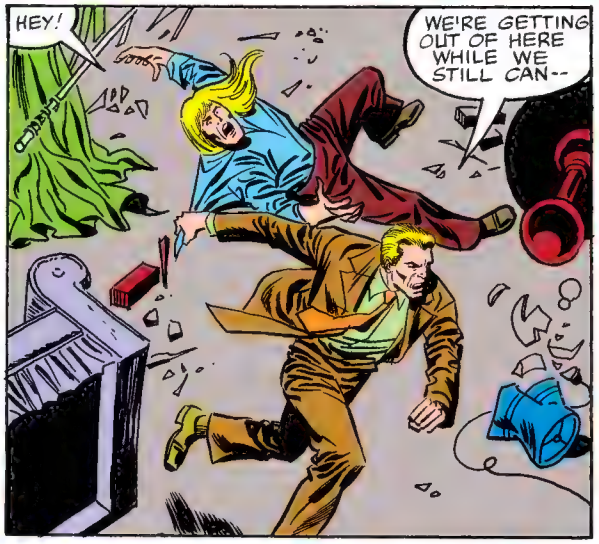
"AND THEN YOUR MECHANICAL PAL SHOWED UP AND...
IF YOU WANT HER BACK, HULK, MEET ME AT THE HOME OF PETER SPAULDING-- AND COME READY TO FIGHT!


SO THAT'S IT! SON, THE CORPORATION HAS PLAYED US ALL FOR PATSIES! THE MACHINE MAN YOU MET WAS A PHONY! HERE YOU CAN HAVE THIS!
I CAN?
SURE, IT'S JUST A REPLICA. YOU DON'T THINK I'D COLLECT REAL GUNS, DO YOU?!
I'VE GOT TO CALL IN SOME HELP!

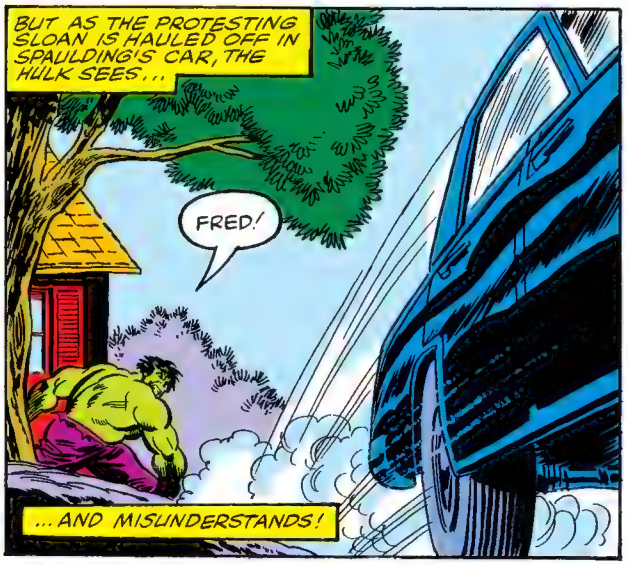
BUT BEFORE DR. SPAULDING CAN DIAL A SINGLE NUMBER...
PETER! GET OUT OF HERE-- QUICK! I CAN'T HOLD HIM FOR LONG!
AND FOR THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN EIGHT HOURS, FRED SLOAN IS STRUCK DUMB BY THE AWESOME, BLOCKBUSTING POWER OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK...


...AS THE BELLOWING GREEN GOLIATH CRASHES ON THROUGH THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SPAULDING HOUSE--
--RIPPING OUT MAJOR ELECTRIC AND PHONE CABLES ALONG THE WAY!

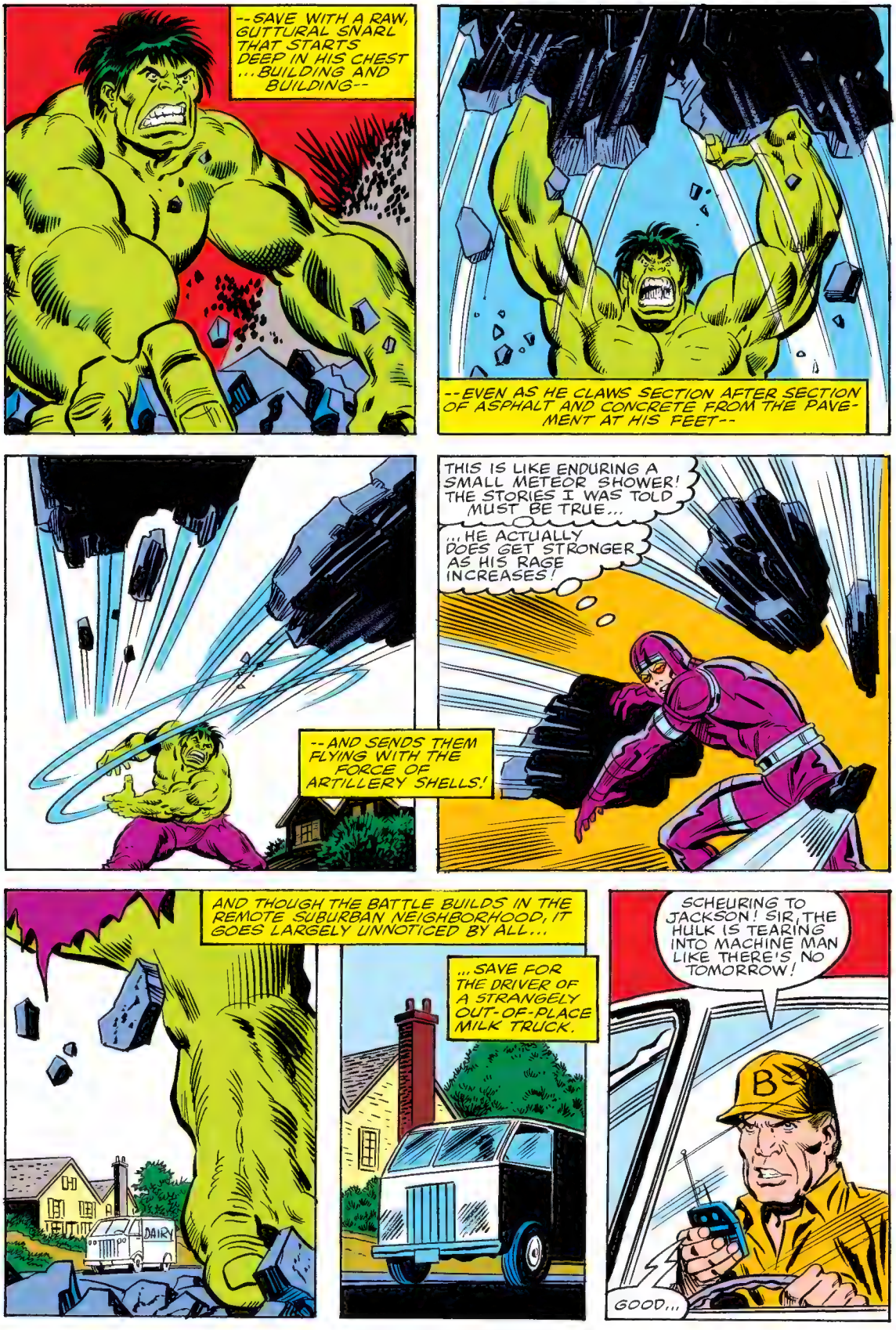
LEMME GO, SPAULDING! I GOTTA STOP HIM BEFORE HE RIPS UP ANYTHING ELSE!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT, SLOAN! HE'S TOO MAD TO LISTEN TO YOU OR ANYONE RIGHT NOW!

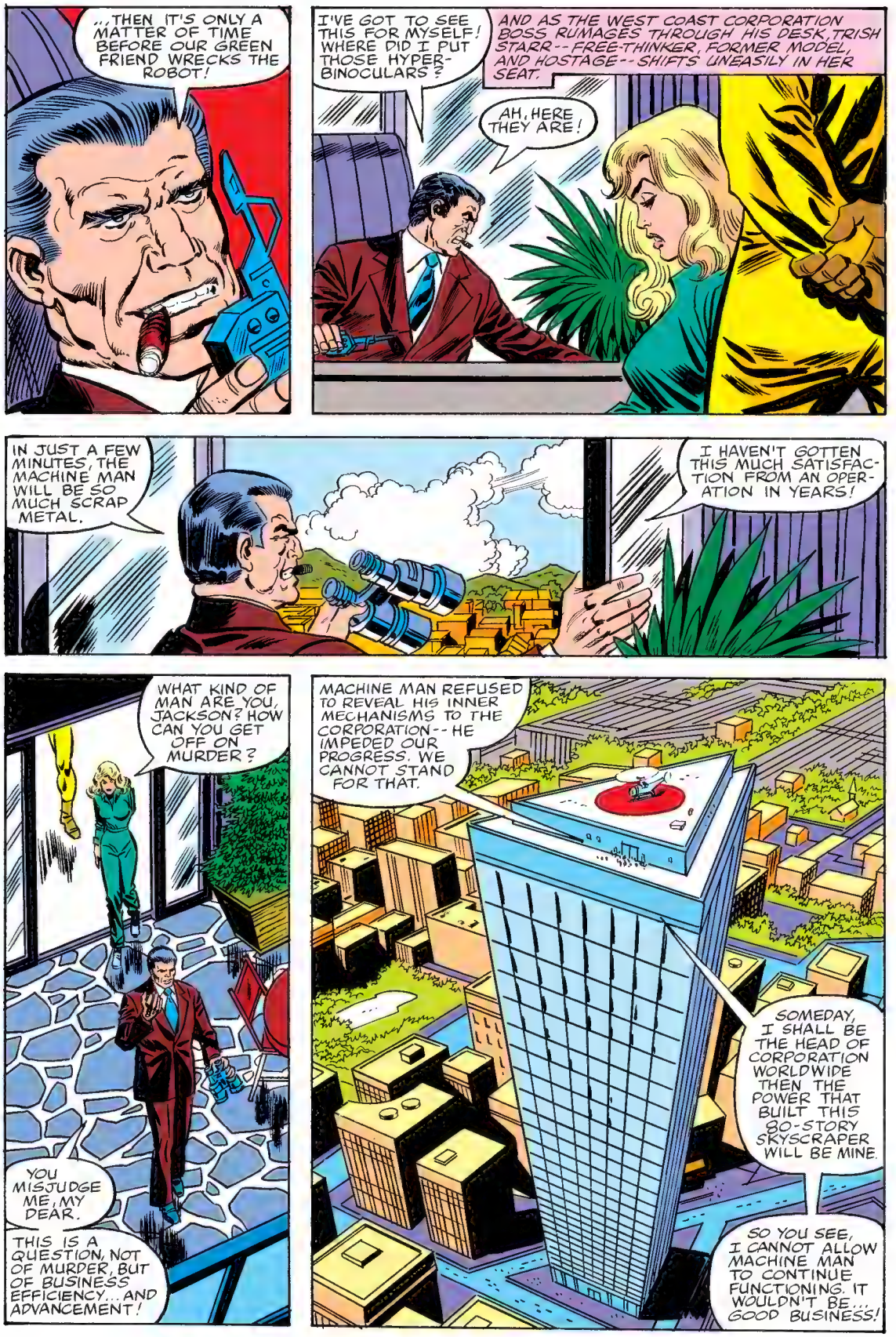

HEY!
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE WHILE WE STILL CAN--

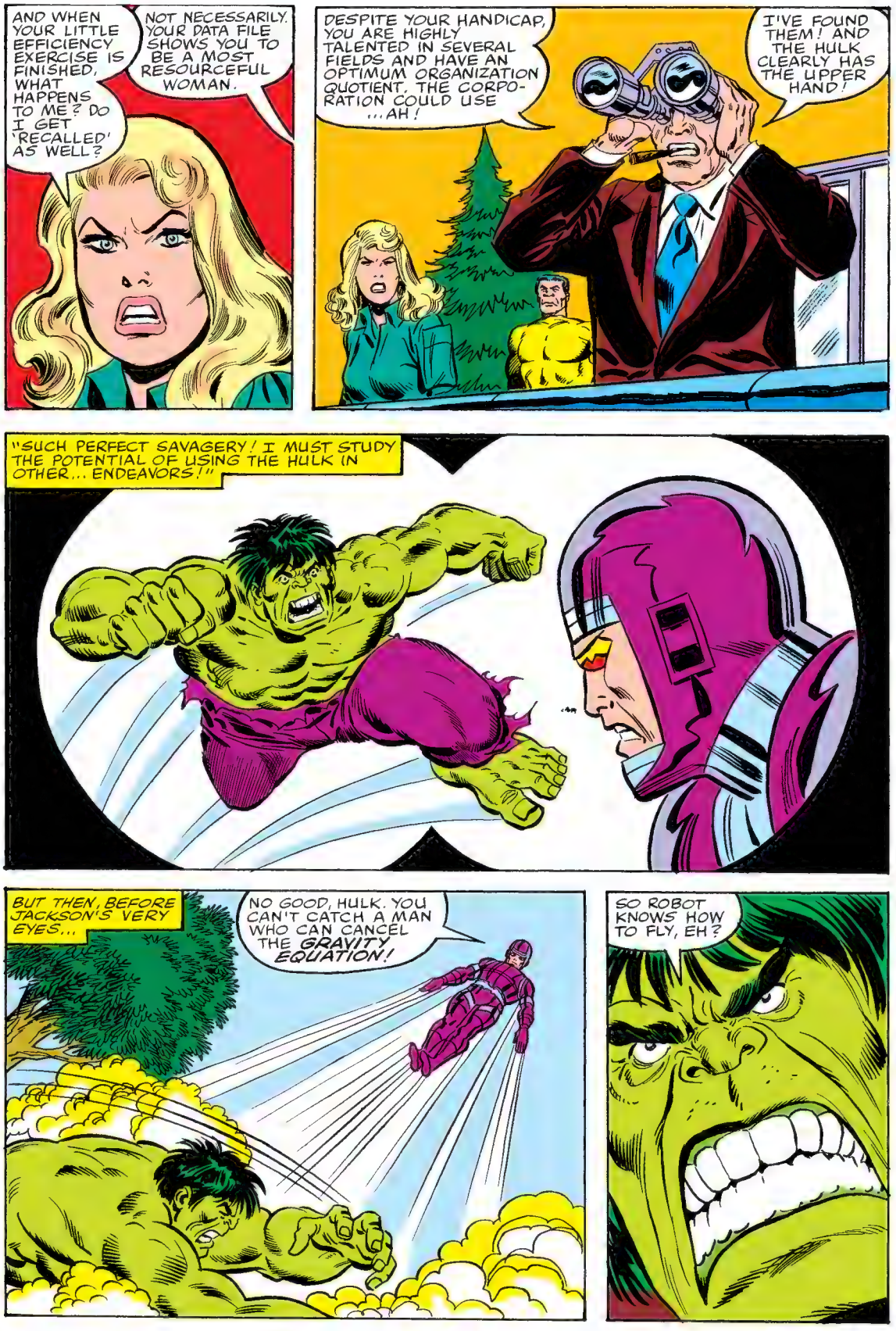
--AND TRACKING DOWN COLONEL SIMON KRAGG! HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
BUT... BUT...


BUT AS THE PROTESTING SLOAN IS HAULED OFF IN SPAULDING'S CAR, THE HULK SEES...
FRED!
...AND MISUNDERSTANDS!

NO! NOW SPAULDING IS STEALING FRED, TOO!
HULK WILL SMASH SPAULDING!
SORRY, HULK, BUT I JUST CAN'T ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN!
UHN?!
WHATEVER YOU MIGHT THINK, PETER SPAULDING IS NO KIDNAPPER!
BA-WHAM
NOT THAT I'D LET YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON HIM IF HE WAS, MIND YOU, BUT...
THE HULK DOES NOT ANSWER MACHINE MAN'S BANTER --

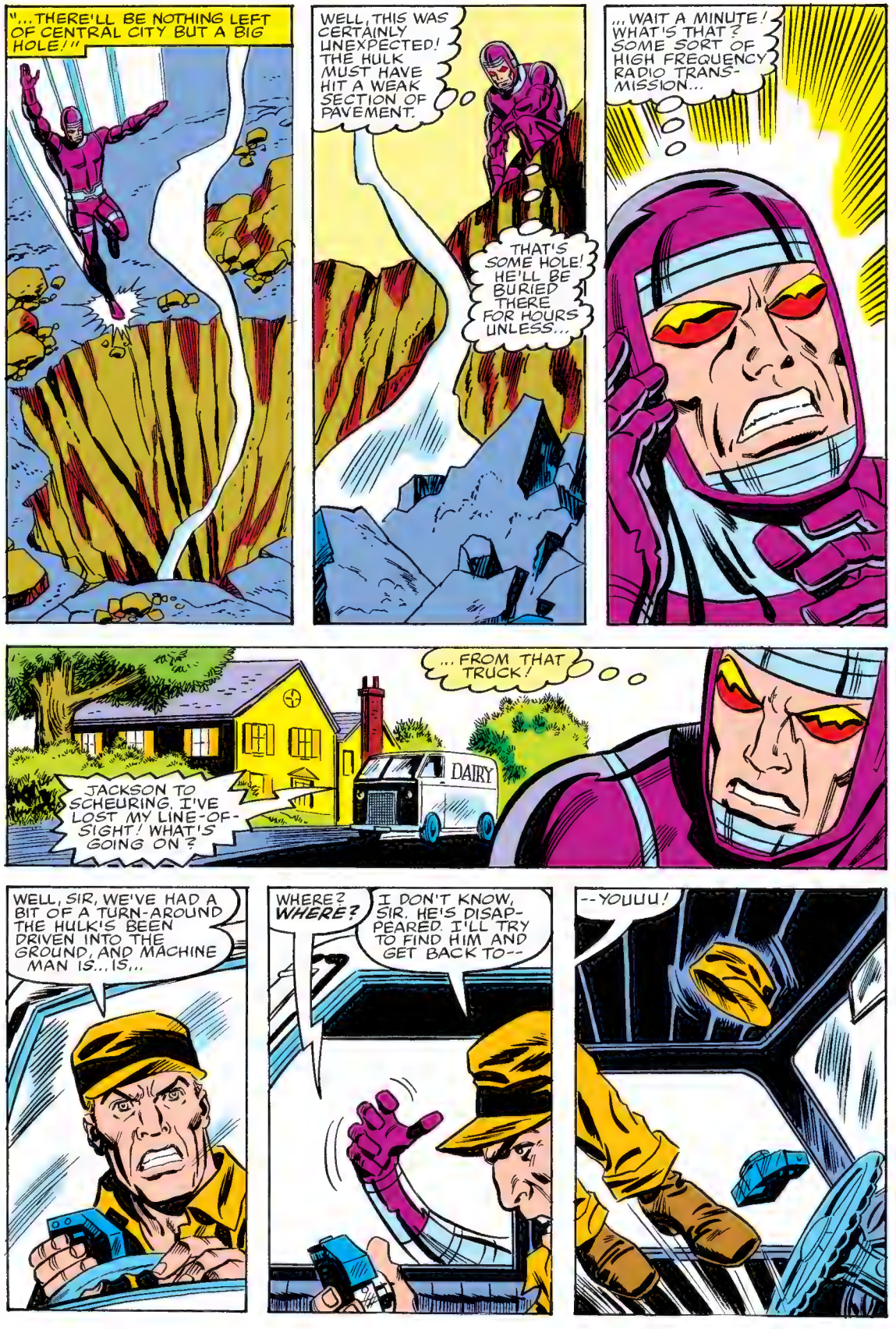

--SAVE WITH A RAW, GUTTURAL SNARL THAT STARTS DEEP IN HIS CHEST ...BUILDING AND BUILDING--
--EVEN AS HE CLAWS SECTION AFTER SECTION OF ASPHALT AND CONCRETE FROM THE PAVEMENT AT HIS FEET--
--AND SENDS THEM FLYING WITH THE FORCE OF ARTILLERY SHELLS!
THIS IS LIKE ENDURING A SMALL METEOR SHOWER! THE STORIES I WAS TOLD MUST BE TRUE...
...HE ACTUALLY DOES GET STRONGER AS HIS RAGE INCREASES!
AND THOUGH THE BATTLE BUILDS IN THE REMOTE SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD, IT GOES LARGELY UNNOTICED BY ALL...
...SAVE FOR THE DRIVER OF A STRANGELY OUT-OF-PLACE MILK TRUCK.
DAIRY
SCHEURING TO JACKSON! SIR, THE HULK IS TEARING INTO MACHINE MAN LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW!
GOOD...

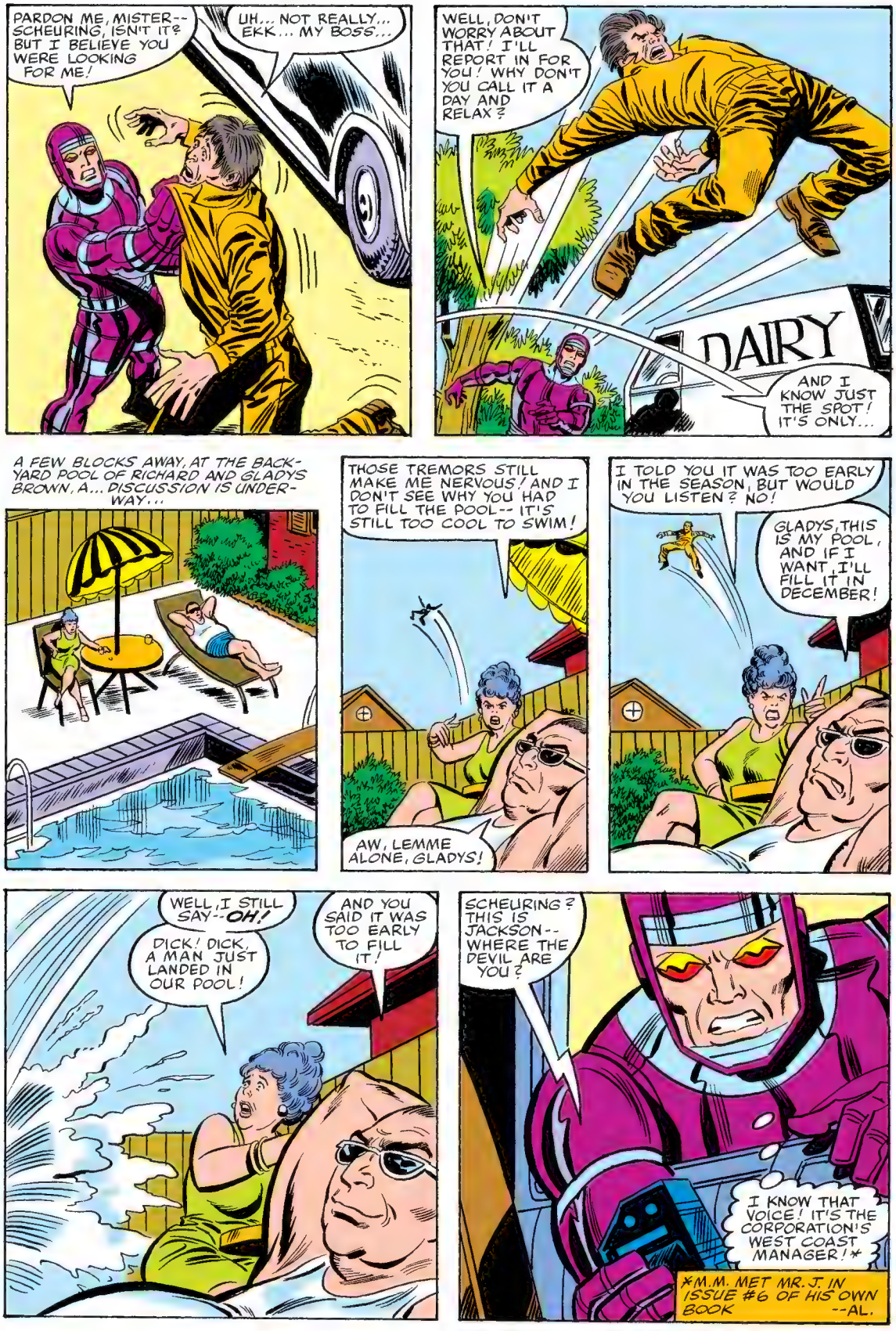

...THEN IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE OUR GREEN FRIEND WRECKS THE ROBOT!
I'VE GOT TO SEE THIS FOR MYSELF! WHERE DID I PUT THOSE HYPER-BINOCULARS?
AND AS THE WEST COAST CORPORATION BOSS RUMAGES THROUGH HIS DESK, TRISH STARR--FREE-THINKER, FORMER MODEL, AND HOSTAGE--SHIFTS UNEASILY IN HER SEAT.
AH, HERE THEY ARE!
IN JUST A FEW MINUTES, THE MACHINE MAN WILL BE SO MUCH SCRAP METAL.
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN THIS MUCH SATISFACTION FROM AN OPERATION IN YEARS!
WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU, JACKSON? HOW CAN YOU GET OFF ON MURDER?
YOU MISJUDGE ME, MY DEAR.
THIS IS A QUESTION, NOT OF MURDER, BUT OF BUSINESS EFFICIENCY... AND ADVANCEMENT!
MACHINE MAN REFUSED TO REVEAL HIS INNER MECHANISMS TO THE CORPORATION--HE IMPEDED OUR PROGRESS. WE CANNOT STAND FOR THAT.
SOMEDAY, I SHALL BE THE HEAD OF CORPORATION WORLDWIDE THEN THE POWER THAT BUILT THIS 80-STORY SKYSCRAPER WILL BE MINE.
SO YOU SEE, I CANNOT ALLOW MACHINE MAN TO CONTINUE FUNCTIONING. IT WOULDN'T BE... GOOD BUSINESS!


AND WHEN YOUR LITTLE EFFICIENCY EXERCISE IS FINISHED, WHAT HAPPENS TO ME? DO I GET 'RECALLED' AS WELL?
NOT NECESSARILY. YOUR DATA FILE SHOWS YOU TO BE A MOST RESOURCEFUL WOMAN.
DESPITE YOUR HANDICAP, YOU ARE HIGHLY TALENTED IN SEVERAL FIELDS AND HAVE AN OPTIMUM ORGANIZATION QUOTIENT. THE CORPORATION COULD USE ...AH!
I'VE FOUND THEM! AND THE HULK CLEARLY HAS THE UPPER HAND!
"SUCH PERFECT SAVAGERY! I MUST STUDY THE POTENTIAL OF USING THE HULK IN OTHER... ENDEAVORS!"
BUT THEN, BEFORE JACKSON'S VERY EYES...
NO GOOD, HULK. YOU CAN'T CATCH A MAN WHO CAN CANCEL THE GRAVITY EQUATION!
SO ROBOT KNOWS HOW TO FLY, EH?

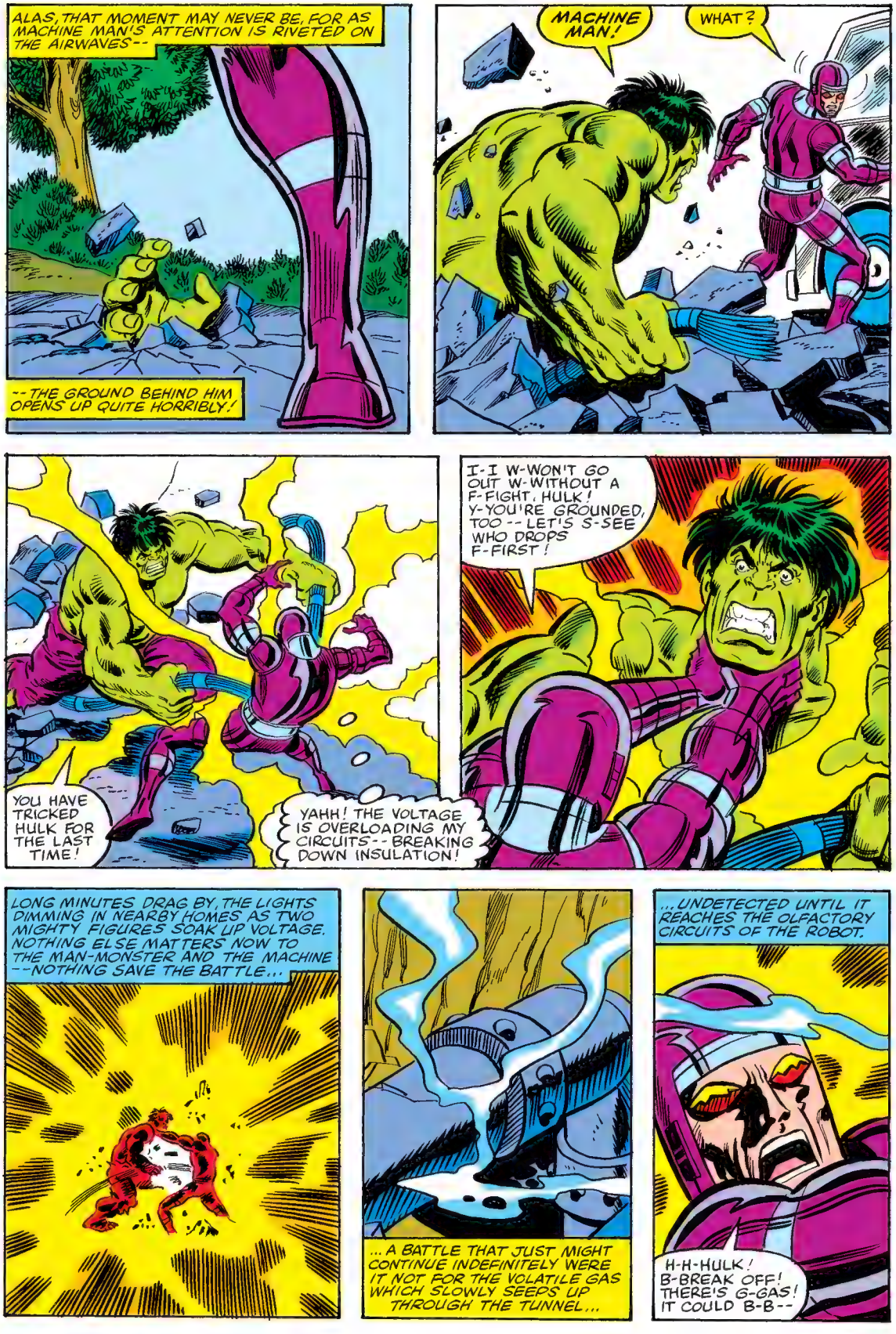
YES, I SUPPOSE IT IS A LOT LIKE FLYING, BUT FOR NOW, I THINK HOVERING WILL DO.
NOW, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO...
BUT BEFORE THE UNCANNY LIVING ROBOT CAN EVEN FINISH HIS PLEA--
--ONE THOUSAND POUNDS OF RAGING FURY COME LEAPING AFTER HIM!
...REASON?
I HATE TO KEEP DISAPPOINTING YOU, HULK--
THAM
--BUT I'M TIRED OF BEING POUNDED INTO SCRAP METAL!

TAKEN BY SURPRISE, THE HULK PLUMMETS THE 200 YARDS TO THE GROUND BELOW AND HITS HARD...
...HARD ENOUGH TO TRIGGER TREMORS IN SECTIONS OF CENTRAL CITY.
PA-THOOM
AND, AT NEARBY CAMP DeSPRAGUE...
COLONEL KRAGG! DID YOU FEEL THAT?
YES. A 3.5 QUAKE.
SIMON, THANK GOD WE FOUND YOU! WE'VE GOT BIG TROUBLE!
SPAULDING?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S THE HULK! THE CORPORATION HAS MANIPULATED HIM INTO ATTACKING MACHINE MAN!
COLLINS--GET ME GAMMA BASE ON THE HORN...ON THE DOUBLE!
YES, SIR!
FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO BY THE TIME THEY CAN GET ANY HULKBUSTERS HERE...

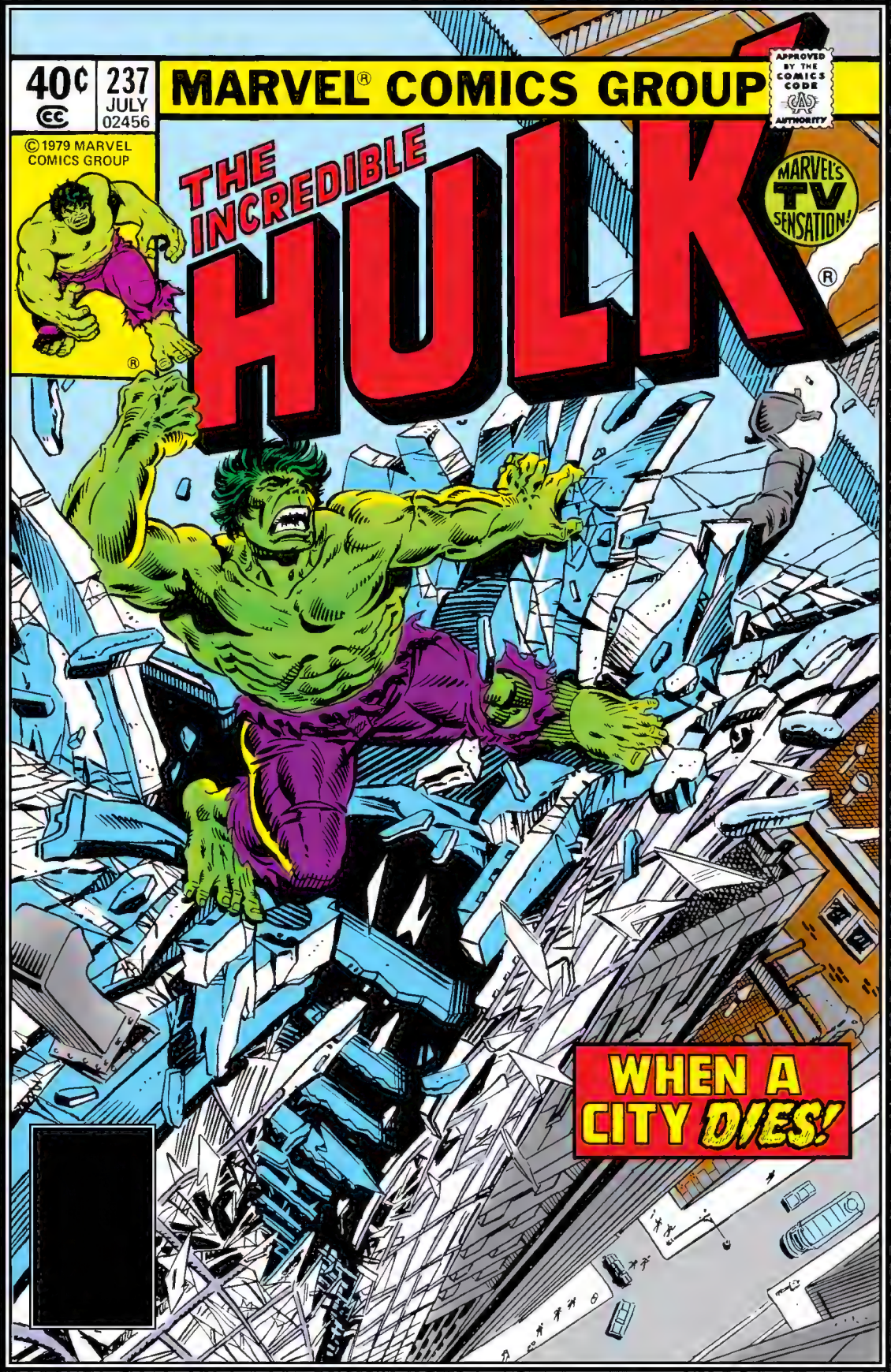

"...THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT OF CENTRAL CITY BUT A BIG HOLE!"
WELL, THIS WAS CERTAINLY UNEXPECTED! THE HULK MUST HAVE HIT A WEAK SECTION OF PAVEMENT.
THAT'S SOME HOLE! HE'LL BE BURIED THERE FOR HOURS UNLESS...
...WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THAT? SOME SORT OF HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO TRANS-MISSION...
...FROM THAT TRUCK!
DAIRY
JACKSON TO SCHEURING. I'VE LOST MY LINE-OF-SIGHT! WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL, SIR, WE'VE HAD A BIT OF A TURN-AROUND THE HULK'S BEEN DRIVEN INTO THE GROUND, AND MACHINE MAN IS... IS...
WHERE? WHERE?
I DON'T KNOW, SIR. HE'S DISAP-PEARED. I'LL TRY TO FIND HIM AND GET BACK TO--
--YOUUU!


PARDON ME, MISTER-- SCHEURING, ISN'T IT? BUT I BELIEVE YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME!
UH... NOT REALLY... EKK... MY BOSS...
WELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! I'LL REPORT IN FOR YOU! WHY DON'T YOU CALL IT A DAY AND RELAX?
DAIRY
AND I KNOW JUST THE SPOT! IT'S ONLY...
A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, AT THE BACK-YARD POOL OF RICHARD AND GLADYS BROWN, A... DISCUSSION IS UNDER-WAY...
THOSE TREMORS STILL MAKE ME NERVOUS! AND I DON'T SEE WHY YOU HAD TO FILL THE POOL-- IT'S STILL TOO COOL TO SWIM!
AW, LEMME ALONE, GLADYS!
I TOLD YOU IT WAS TOO EARLY IN THE SEASON, BUT WOULD YOU LISTEN? NO!
GLADYS, THIS IS MY POOL, AND IF I WANT, I'LL FILL IT IN DECEMBER!
WELL, I STILL SAY--OH!
DICK! DICK, A MAN JUST LANDED IN OUR POOL!
AND YOU SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO FILL IT!
SCHEURING? THIS IS JACKSON-- WHERE THE DEVIL ARE YOU?
I KNOW THAT VOICE! IT'S THE CORPORATION'S WEST COAST MANAGER!*
*M.M. MET MR. J. IN ISSUE #6 OF HIS OWN BOOK --AL.

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO FIND HIM! A SIMPLE ALTERATION OF MY VOICE UNIT, AND...
SCHEURING HERE, SIR! STILL NO SIGN OF MACHINE MAN! AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS!
CLIK
BUT AS THE LIVING ROBOT CARRIES OUT HIS AUDIO IMPERSONATION...
MACHINE MAN MUST THINK HULK IS WEAK... BUT HULK WILL SHOW HIM HE IS WRONG!
HULK WILL SMASH HIM INTO... EH? WHAT HAS HULK DUG UP?
WIRES?
DEEP WITHIN THE HULK'S MUDDLED MIND, AN ALMOST FORGOTTEN MEMORY IS SPURRED TO LIFE AT THE SIGHT OF THE EXPOSED HIGH-VOLTAGE CONDUIT... A MEMORY OF A TIME--
--WHEN THE THING TRIED TO STOP HIM WITH A HANDFUL OF SUCH WIRES!*
*F.F. #25 --AL
WIRES COULD NOT STOP THE HULK... BUT MACHINE MAN IS NOT THE HULK!
AND WITH THAT CRUDE LOGIC, THE HULK RIPS A CLUSTER OF CABLES FREE--
--TURNS TO ONE WALL OF THE PIT AND BEGINS TO DIG... PAYING LITTLE HEED TO THE FATEFUL HISS OF--
--ESCAPING GAS!
MEANWHILE...
STAND BY, SCHEURING!
JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS, JACKSON, AND I'LL HAVE A RADIO FIX ON YOUR LOCATION!


ALAS, THAT MOMENT MAY NEVER BE, FOR AS MACHINE MAN'S ATTENTION IS RIVETED ON THE AIRWAVES--
--THE GROUND BEHIND HIM OPENS UP QUITE HORRIBLY!
MACHINE MAN!
WHAT?
YOU HAVE TRICKED HULK FOR THE LAST TIME!
YAHH! THE VOLTAGE IS OVERLOADING MY CIRCUITS--BREAKING DOWN INSULATION!
I-I W-WON'T GO OUT W-WITHOUT A F-FIGHT, HULK! Y-YOU'RE GROUNDED, TOO--LET'S S-SEE WHO DROPS F-FIRST!
LONG MINUTES DRAG BY, THE LIGHTS DIMMING IN NEARBY HOMES AS TWO MIGHTY FIGURES SOAK UP VOLTAGE. NOTHING ELSE MATTERS NOW TO THE MAN-MONSTER AND THE MACHINE --NOTHING SAVE THE BATTLE...
...A BATTLE THAT JUST MIGHT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY WERE IT NOT FOR THE VOLATILE GAS WHICH SLOWLY SEEPS UP THROUGH THE TUNNEL...
...UNDETECTED UNTIL IT REACHES THE OLFACTORY CIRCUITS OF THE ROBOT.
H-H-HULK! B-BREAK OFF! THERE'S G-GAS! IT COULD B-B--

"--BLOW!"
NEXT
THE STARTLING CONCLUSION!
WHEN A CITY DIES!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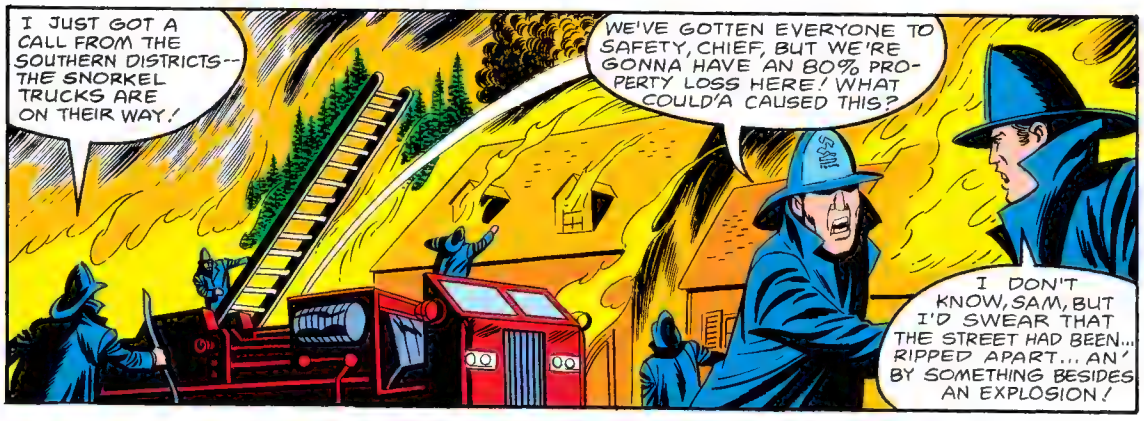
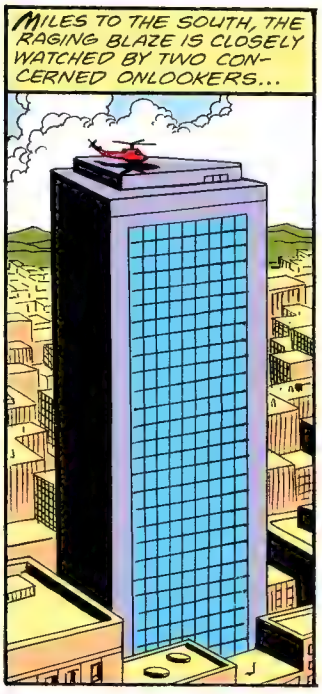
THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!
WHEN A CITY DIES!

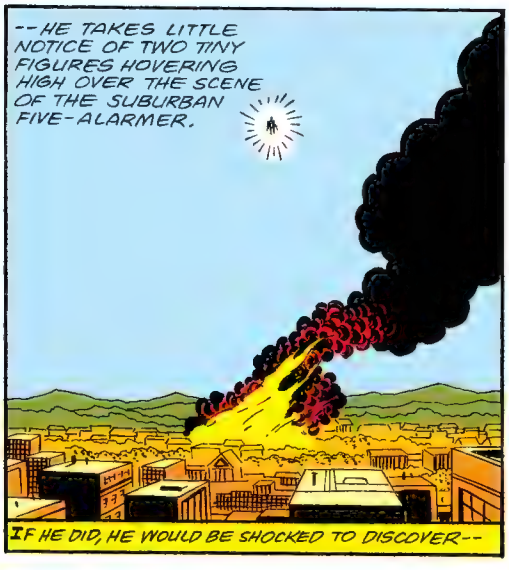
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®
WHEN A CITY DIES!
THE SUBURBAN CALVIN LANE DISTRICT--SITUATED ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF CENTRAL CITY, CALIFORNIA--WAS ALWAYS A PEACEFUL, QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD.
AT LEAST IT WAS UNTIL THIS PARTICULAR SUNDAY AFTERNOON.
TODAY, A BATTLE BETWEEN THE INCREDIBLE HULK AND AARON STACK, THE MACHINE MAN, TRIGGERED A GAS MAIN EXPLOSION THAT TURNED CALVIN LANE INTO AN INFERNO!
ROGER STERN & SAL BUSCEMA & JACK ABEL
PRODUCTION
LETTERER· RICK PARKER
COLORIST· BOB SHAREN
EDITOR· ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR-in-CHIEF
JIM SHOOTER
LG428

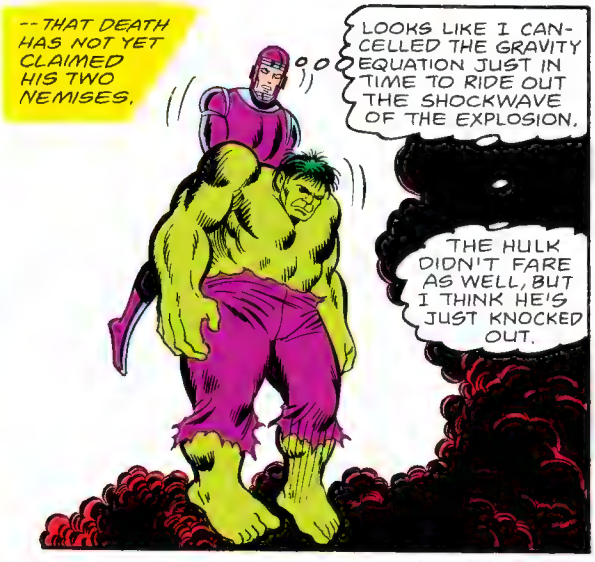

I JUST GOT A CALL FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS--THE SNORKEL TRUCKS ARE ON THEIR WAY!
WE'VE GOTTEN EVERYONE TO SAFETY, CHIEF, BUT WE'RE GONNA HAVE AN 80% PROPERTY LOSS HERE! WHAT COULD'A CAUSED THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, SAM, BUT I'D SWEAR THAT THE STREET HAD BEEN... RIPPED APART... AN' BY SOMETHING BESIDES AN EXPLOSION!

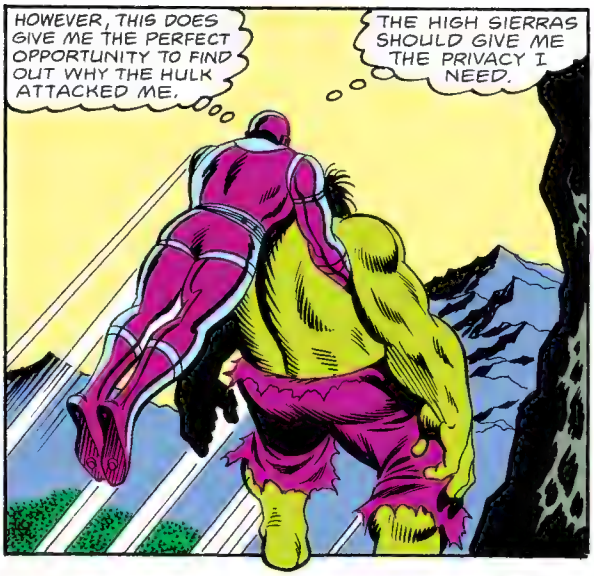

MILES TO THE SOUTH, THE RAGING BLAZE IS CLOSELY WATCHED BY TWO CONCERNED ONLOOKERS...

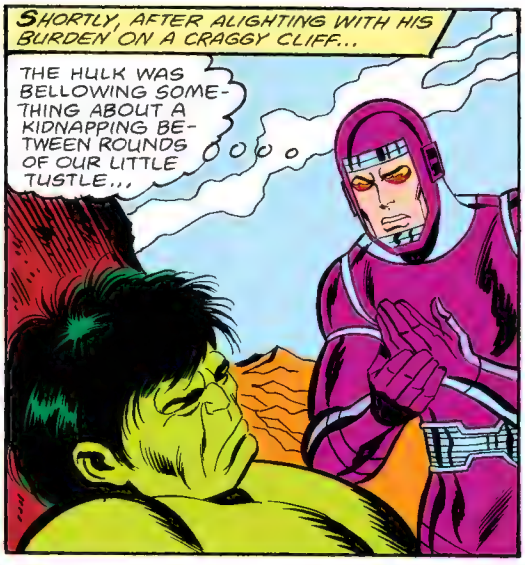
... MR. CURTIS JACKSON, AN EXECUTIVE OF THE CRIMINAL CORPORATION... AND MS. TRISH STARR, HIS HOSTAGE.
IT... IT'S HORRIBLE!
COME NOW, MY DEAR! CERTAINLY THE LOSS IN PROPERTY... AND LIFE... IS UNFORTUNATE--
--BUT IF THE HOLOCAUST HAS ALSO ELIMINATED THE HULK AND MACHINE MAN, THEN IT DEFINITELY HAS HAD ITS THERAPUTIC EFFECTS!

TOO BAD ABOUT THE HULK, THOUGH. HE COULD HAVE MADE A USEFUL TOOL FOR THE CORPORATION!
BUT AS JACKSON WATCHES THE DISTANT FIRE IN FASCINATION--


--HE TAKES LITTLE NOTICE OF TWO TINY FIGURES HOVERING HIGH OVER THE SCENE OF THE SUBURBAN FIVE-ALARMER.
IF HE DID, HE WOULD BE SHOCKED TO DISCOVER--

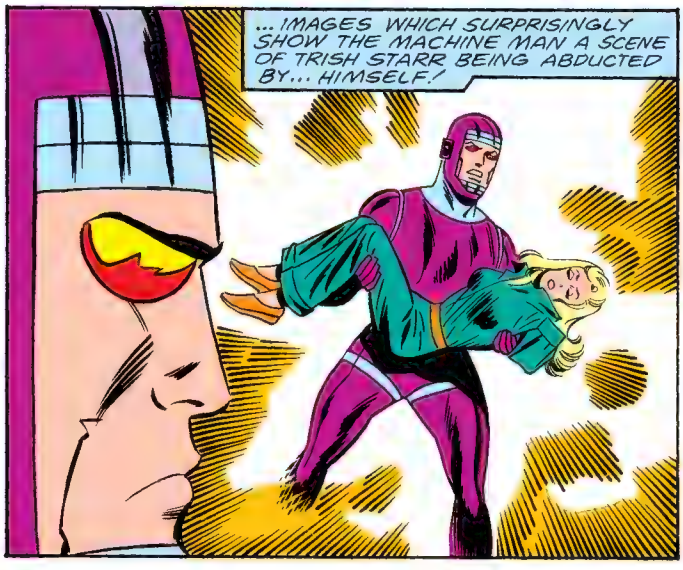

--THAT DEATH HAS NOT YET CLAIMED HIS TWO NEMISES.
LOOKS LIKE I CANCELLED THE GRAVITY EQUATION JUST IN TIME TO RIDE OUT THE SHOCKWAVE OF THE EXPLOSION.
THE HULK DIDN'T FARE AS WELL, BUT I THINK HE'S JUST KNOCKED OUT.


HOWEVER, THIS DOES GIVE ME THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT WHY THE HULK ATTACKED ME.
THE HIGH SIERRAS SHOULD GIVE ME THE PRIVACY I NEED.

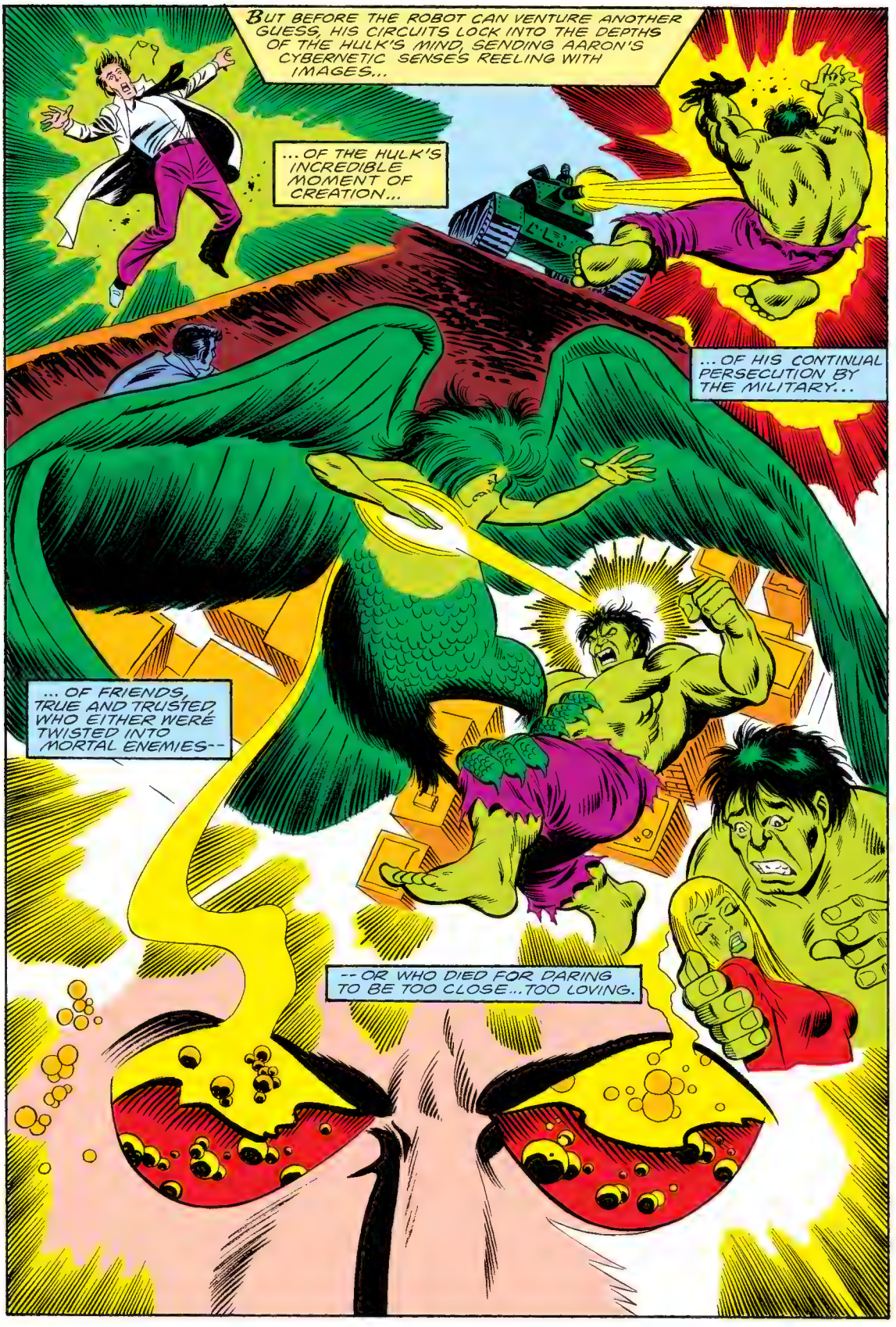

SHORTLY, AFTER ALIGHTING WITH HIS BURDEN ON A CRAGGY CLIFF...
THE HULK WAS BELLOWING SOMETHING ABOUT A KIDNAPPING BETWEEN ROUNDS OF OUR LITTLE TUSTLE...

...SO I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I RAN A LITTLE MIND-PROBE ON HIM AND FOUND OUT JUST WHY HE THINKS I'M INVOLVED.

PLACING HIS STEELY HAND ON THE BEHEMOTH'S BROW, THE LIVING ROBOT'S ENCEPHALO-CIRCUITS PICK UP AND AMPLIFY THE HULK'S MENTAL IMAGES...


...IMAGES WHICH SURPRISINGLY SHOW THE MACHINE MAN A SCENE OF TRISH STARR BEING ABDUCTED BY... HIMSELF!

SUDDENLY, IT ALL STARTS TO MAKE SENSE. THE CORPORATION PROBABLY USED A DOUBLE OF ME TO CONVINCE THE HULK I WAS WORKING FOR THEM. I WONDER...

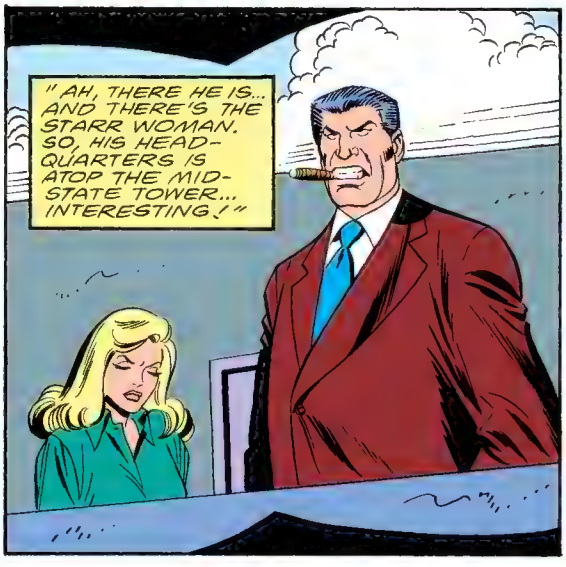

BUT BEFORE THE ROBOT CAN VENTURE ANOTHER GUESS, HIS CIRCUITS LOCK INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE HULK'S MIND, SENDING AARON'S CYBERNETIC SENSES REELING WITH IMAGES...
...OF THE HULK'S INCREDIBLE MOMENT OF CREATION...
...OF HIS CONTINUAL PERSECUTION BY THE MILITARY...
...OF FRIENDS, TRUE AND TRUSTED WHO EITHER WERE TWISTED INTO MORTAL ENEMIES--
--OR WHO DIED FOR DARING TO BE TOO CLOSE...TOO LOVING.

I... NEVER KNEW! NO WONDER HE IS SUCH A CREATURE OF RAGE... HIS LIFE HAS BEEN ONE OF ALMOST UNENDING TORMENT.
WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON... MUCH MORE THAN I SUSPECTED.

I... WAIT! THERE'S THAT RADIO SIGNAL AGAIN-- THE ONE THAT CORPORATION LACKEY WAS USING! *
*LAST ISSUE--AL.

MR. JACKSON MUST HAVE LEFT HIS TRANS-CEIVER ON-- A BIG MISTAKE! NOW I CAN TRIANGULATE THE SIGNAL, AND MY PRECISION OPTICS--

"--CAN ZERO IN ON HIS LOCATION!


"AH, THERE HE IS... AND THERE'S THE STARR WOMAN. SO, HIS HEAD-QUARTERS IS ATOP THE MID-STATE TOWER... INTERESTING!"

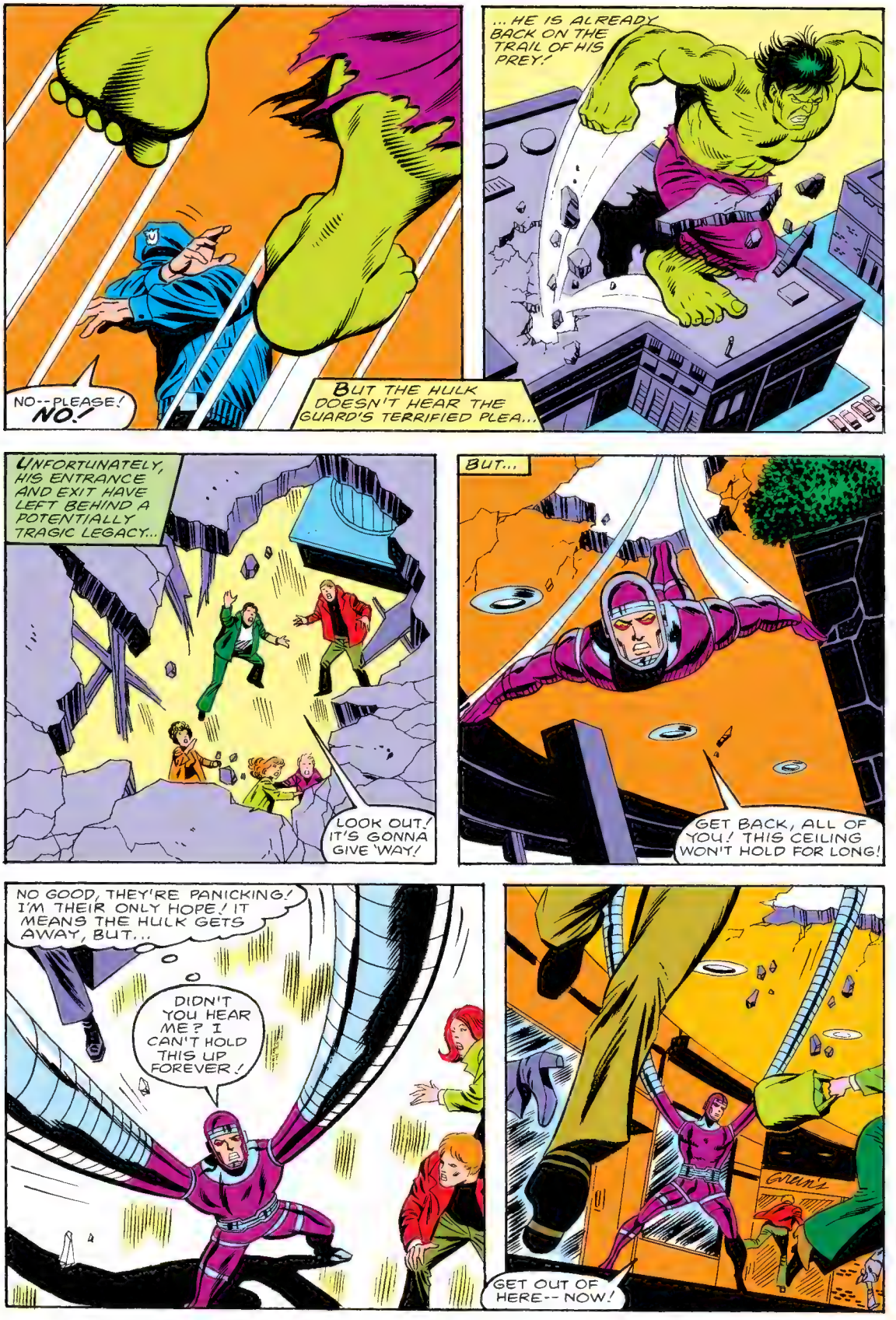
BUT UNNOTICED BY MACHINE MAN, THE HULK BEGINS TO STIR BENEATH HIS TOUCH.

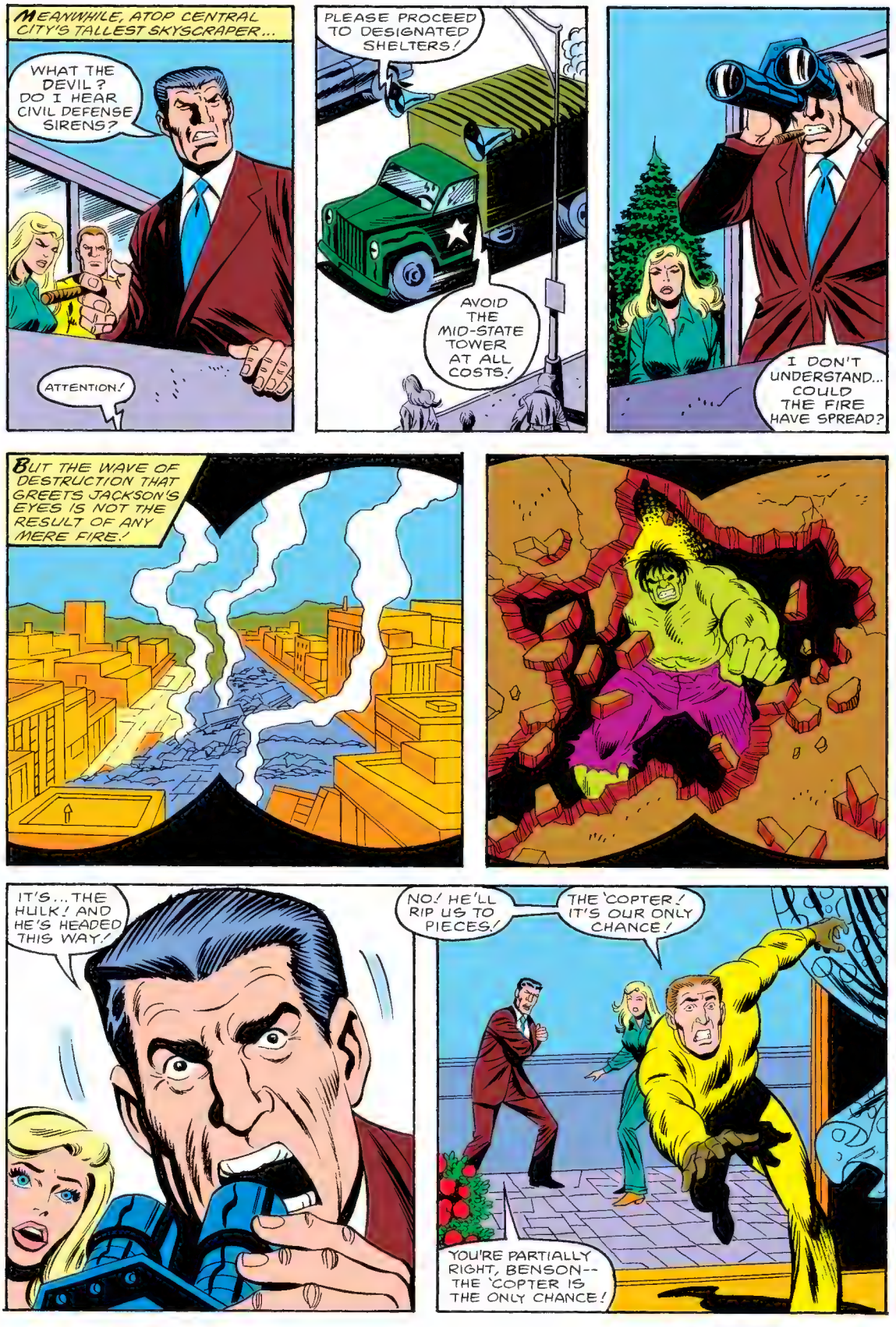
AND WITH THE MIND-PROBE STILL IN PLACE, THE EMERALD MAN-MONSTER RECEIVES AN INTERESTING FLOOD OF MENTAL FEEDBACK!
SO, JACKSON HAS TRISH ON TOP OF THAT BUILDING!
HEY!
WAIT A MINUTE, HULK! YOU MUST KNOW NOW THAT I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY! WE CAN STOP JACKSON TOGETHER!
NO! HULK DOES NOT NEED ANY HELP!
HULK DOES NOT NEED ANYTHING!
HULK WILL SMASH JACKSON, AND THIS TIME NOTHING WILL STOP THE HULK... NOTHING!
UNH! HE REALLY GOT ME THAT TIME! I CAN FEEL DOZENS OF CIRCUITS SHORTING OUT, BUT THERE'S... NO TIME FOR REPAIRS NOW...
...GOT TO GET... AIRBORNE!

GATHERING ALL THE POWER OF HIS GLISTENING METAL FORM, MACHINE MAN ACTIVATES HIS AMAZING ELECTROMAGNETIC GRID--
--AND LIFTS UP INTO THE SKY IN TOTAL DEFIANCE OF GRAVITY.!
THE HULK HAS BEEN GETTING MADDER AND MADDER THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF OUR BATTLES, * I'M AFRAID THE ONLY THING THAT WILL CALM HIM NOW--
--IS JACKSON'S UTTER DESTRUCTION. AND I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.., NOT NOW.!
*HULK # 235-236--AL.
I'D BETTER CALL IN HELP ON THIS ONE.
PRESSING AN ALL-BUT-INVISIBLE STUD ON HIS RIGHT EAR-PIECE, AARON ACTIVATES HIS RADIO MIKE-UNIT AND..
PING
MACHINE MAN TO NATIONAL SECURITY COMMAND.! PATCH ME THROUGH TO COLONEL SIMON KRAGG.!
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
CLIK
AND, AT A NEARBY ARMY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER...
DR. SAMSON ISN'T AROUND RIGHT NOW, COLONEL, BUT I'VE ARRANGED TO SCRAMBLE A SQUADRON OF HULK-BUSTER JET INTERCEPTORS.! THEY SHOULD BE HERE IN 30 MINUTES.!
I APPRECIATE IT, QUARTERMAIN. FROM WHAT DR. SPAULDING AND MR. SLOAN TELL ME WE COULD BE FACING A CATASTROPHE.
SO FAR, THE ONLY DAMAGE REPORTS WE'VE GOTTEN HAVE BEEN OF AN EXPLOSION AND FIRE ON THE NORTHSIDE, BUT--.!
FREDDY-BOY, WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?
COLONEL.!

YES, WHAT IS IT, BAILEY?
I'VE JUST PICKED UP A MAYDAY OVER THE NATIONAL SECURITY HOOK-UP! I KNOW IT'S CRAZY, BUT... WELL, IT'S MACHINE MAN!
STACK?! WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW THE DEVIL DID YOU CUT IN ON THIS FREQUENCY?
SORRY IF I'VE VIOLATED ANY FCC PROVISIONS, COLONEL, BUT THIS CAN'T WAIT!
THE HULK IS HEADED FOR THE MID-STATE TOWER... RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE CITY!
YOU'VE GOT TO EVACUATE THE DOWNTOWN AREA, SIR--IMMEDIATELY!
AND, AS EMERGENCY CIVIL DEFENSE MEASURES BEGIN TO SWING INTO PLAY, THE HULK NEARS THE EDGE OF THE CITY PROPER.
--INDISCRIMINATELY LEVELING A SCORE OF WAREHOUSES THAT LIE IN HIS PATH.
A SERIES OF MILE-DEVOURING LEAPS CARRY HIM EVER NEARER TO THE SKYSCRAPER THAT IS HIS GOAL...
...LEAPS WHICH PROPEL HIM ON TOWARDS LANDING SITES WHICH ARE NOT ALWAYS CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING THE IMPACT OF HIS HALF-TON BODY...

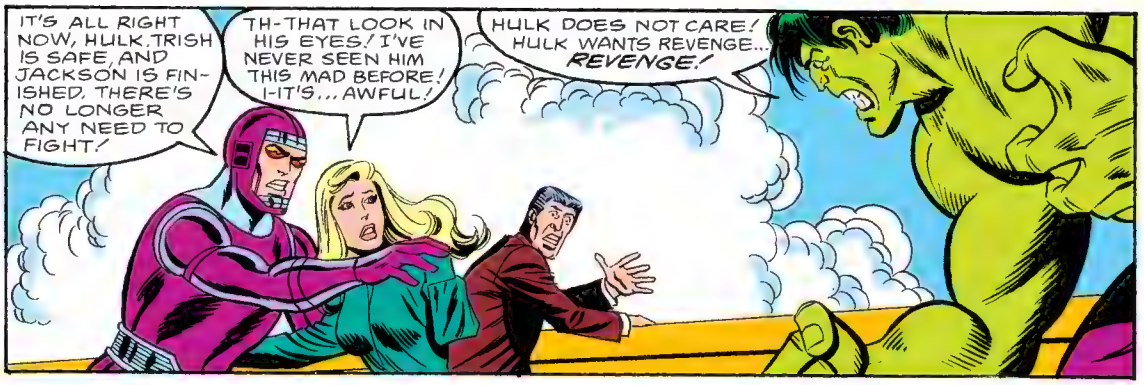
...SITES SUCH AS THE ZIMMERMAN SQUARE SHOPPING MALL!
MADRE DIOS! IT IS A DEMON!
Shoes
IT'S WORSE THAN THAT, LADY-- IT'S THE HULK!
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
GOOD LORD, THE HULK!
NO WAY I CAN STOP HIM! MAYBE A BLUFF--?
A-ALL RIGHT, HULK, HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! W-WE'VE GOT A DOZEN TANKS OUTSIDE AND..
HULK DIDN'T SEE ANY TANKS OUTSIDE. ALL HULK SEES IS LITTLE MAN WITH LITTLE GUN!
AND HULK HATES GUNS!
GET OUT OF HULK'S WAY, OR HULK WILL DO THIS TO YOU!

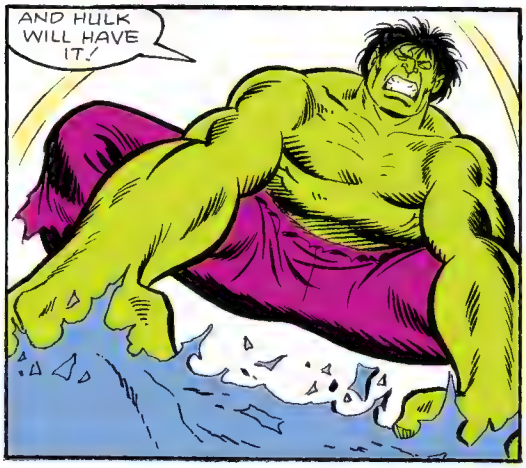

NO--PLEASE! NO!
BUT THE HULK DOESN'T HEAR THE GUARD'S TERRIFIED PLEA...
...HE IS ALREADY BACK ON THE TRAIL OF HIS PREY!
UNFORTUNATELY, HIS ENTRANCE AND EXIT HAVE LEFT BEHIND A POTENTIALLY TRAGIC LEGACY...
LOOK OUT! IT'S GONNA GIVE 'WAY!
BUT...
GET BACK, ALL OF YOU! THIS CEILING WON'T HOLD FOR LONG!
NO GOOD, THEY'RE PANICKING! I'M THEIR ONLY HOPE! IT MEANS THE HULK GETS AWAY, BUT...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I CAN'T HOLD THIS UP FOREVER!
GET OUT OF HERE-- NOW!

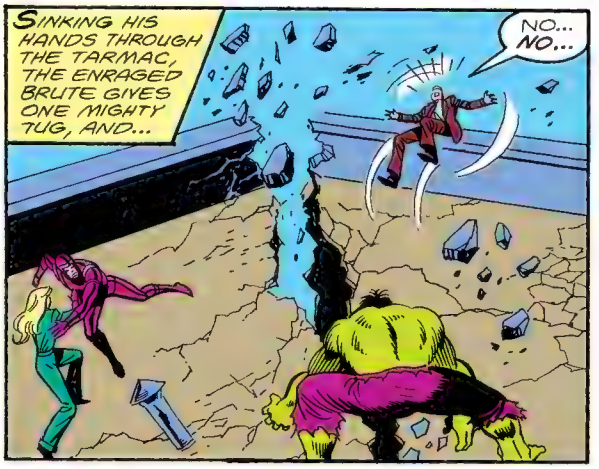

MEANWHILE, ATOP CENTRAL CITY'S TALLEST SKYSCRAPER...
WHAT THE DEVIL? DO I HEAR CIVIL DEFENSE SIRENS?
ATTENTION!
PLEASE PROCEED TO DESIGNATED SHELTERS!
AVOID THE MID-STATE TOWER AT ALL COSTS!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... COULD THE FIRE HAVE SPREAD?
BUT THE WAVE OF DESTRUCTION THAT GREETS JACKSON'S EYES IS NOT THE RESULT OF ANY MERE FIRE!
IT'S... THE HULK! AND HE'S HEADED THIS WAY!
NO! HE'LL RIP US TO PIECES!
THE 'COPTER! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
YOU'RE PARTIALLY RIGHT, BENSON-- THE 'COPTER IS THE ONLY CHANCE!

BUT NOT FOR YOU!
KBLAM
NO! NO!
COME, MY DEAR-- THIS IS NO TIME FOR QUEASY STOMACHS!
YOU SHOT HIM DOWN AS IF YOU WERE SWATTING A FLY! HOW COULD YOU?
HMPH! BENSON WAS A GOOD EMPLOYEE, BUT HE WAS JUST AN EMPLOYEE! ANYONE OFF THE STREET COULD EASILY REPLACE HIM!
BESIDES, THERE IS ONLY ENOUGH ROOM IN THE 'COPTER FOR TWO -- AND YOU ARE STILL A VALUABLE ITEM, MS. STARR!
NOW, GET ABOARD BEFORE IT'S...
...TOO LATE.
CURTIS JACKSON SUDDENLY STIFFENS -- FROZEN WITH STARK TERROR AT THE SIGHT HIGH ABOVE THE ROOFTOP HELIPAD.
FOR ARCING HIS WAY EARTHWARD IS THE MOST POWERFUL BEING ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH -- AND HIS PROJECTED POINT OF IMPACT IS UNMISTAKABLE!

JACKSON'S AVENUE OF ESCAPE CRUMPLES UNDER THE BELLOWING MAN-MONSTER LIKE SO MUCH PAPIER-MACHE!
THE COPTER'S GAS TANKS IGNITE ALMOST INSTANTLY.
WOOMF
FOR A MOMENT, CAPTOR AND CAPTIVE BOTH COWER BEFORE THE WALL OF FIRE...
... AND THEN-- IMPOSSIBLY-- A SEVEN-FOOT FIGURE OF HATE STRIDES THROUGH THE FLAMES AS IF THEY WEREN'T EVEN THERE!
NO! DON'T MAKE A MOVE, HULK-- NOT UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR PRETTY FRIEND TO LOSE HER FACE!
THE HULK DOES NOT ANSWER...
... BUT HIS RAGE IS HORRIBLE TO BEHOLD.
I WANT YOU TO LEAP FAR AWAY, UNDERSTAND? OR ELSE--
SORRY, MR. JACKSON, BUT YOU'RE NOT THREATENING ANY-ONE ANY MORE.


IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW, HULK. TRISH IS SAFE, AND JACKSON IS FINISHED. THERE'S NO LONGER ANY NEED TO FIGHT!
TH-THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES! I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM THIS MAD BEFORE! I-IT'S... AWFUL!
HULK DOES NOT CARE! HULK WANTS REVENGE... REVENGE!

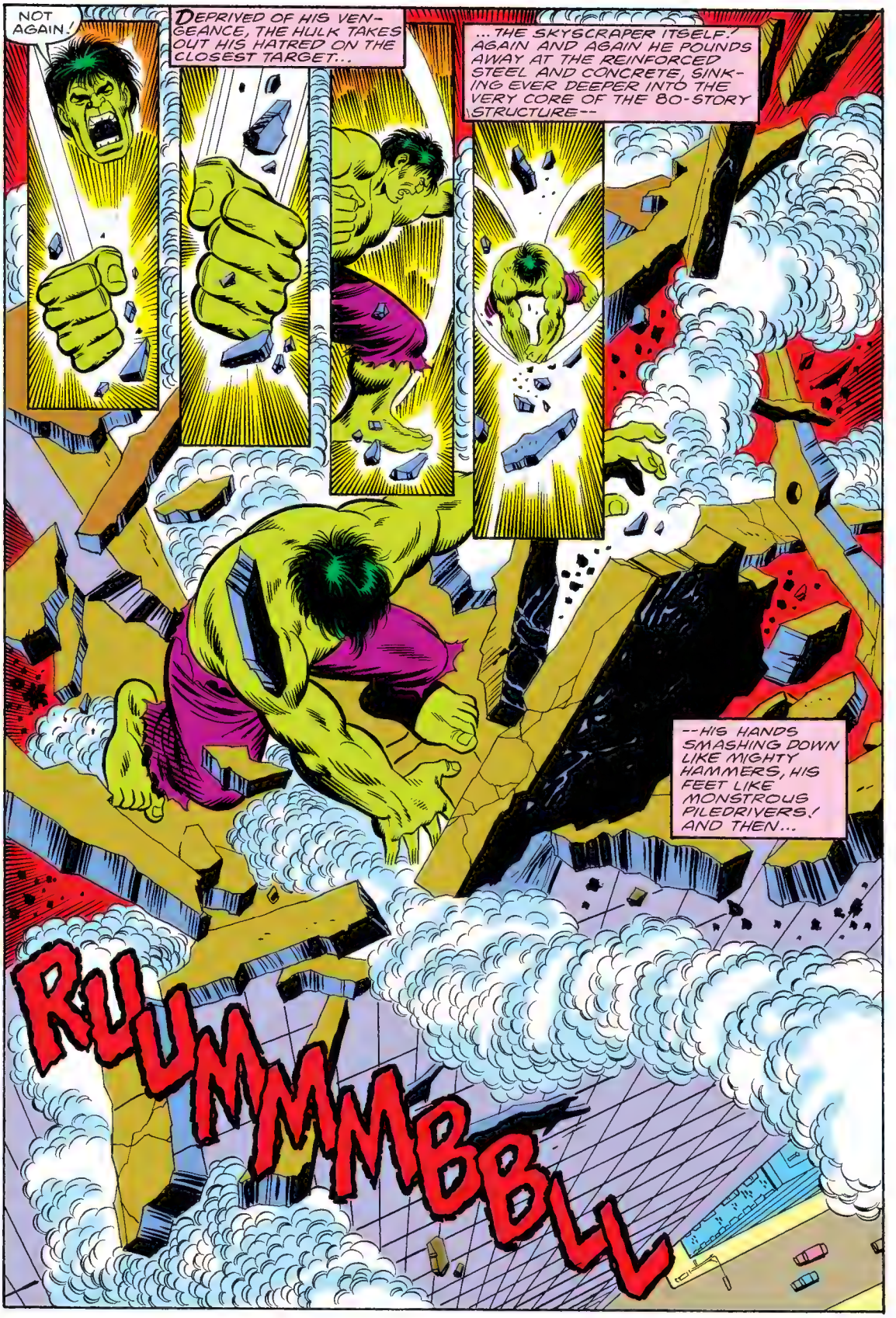

AND HULK WILL HAVE IT!


SINKING HIS HANDS THROUGH THE TARMAC, THE ENRAGED BRUTE GIVES ONE MIGHTY TUG, AND...
NO... NO...

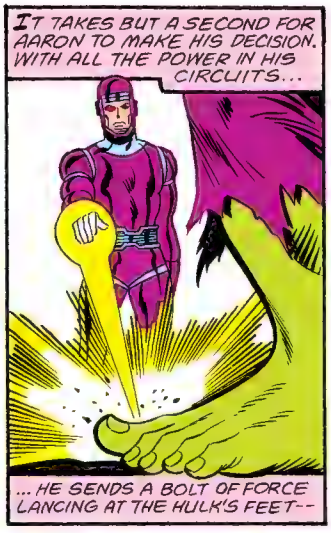
--NO!

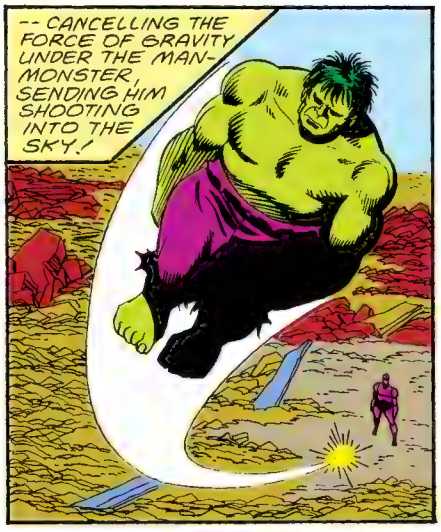
TAKE IT EASY, JACKSON! I OUGHT TO LET YOU BOUNCE--

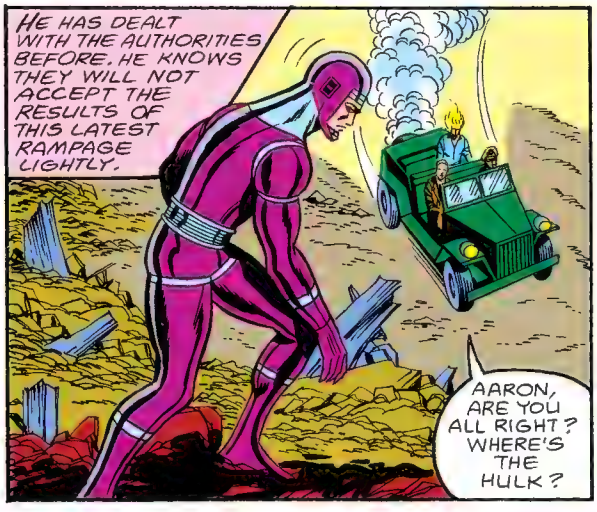
--BUT I DON'T WANT TO LET THE HULK BECOME A MURDERER!
COME BACK! HULK WILL NOT BE CHEATED AGAIN!

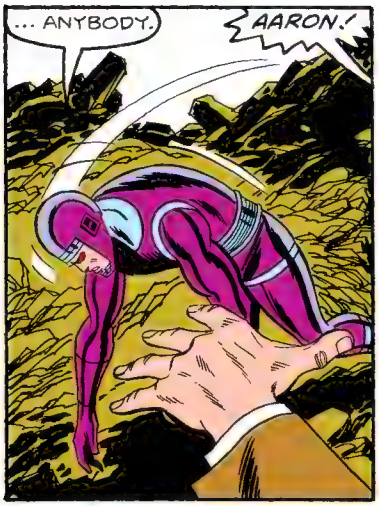

NOT AGAIN!
DEPRIVED OF HIS VENGEANCE, THE HULK TAKES OUT HIS HATRED ON THE CLOSEST TARGET...
...THE SKYSCRAPER ITSELF! AGAIN AND AGAIN HE POUNDS AWAY AT THE REINFORCED STEEL AND CONCRETE, SINKING EVER DEEPER INTO THE VERY CORE OF THE 80-STORY STRUCTURE--
--HIS HANDS SMASHING DOWN LIKE MIGHTY HAMMERS, HIS FEET LIKE MONSTROUS PILEDRIVERS! AND THEN...
RUUMMMBBLL

THE MID-STATE TOWER IS NO MORE!
KRA
THOOM
AND, BLOCKS AWAY, BEHIND POLICE BARRICADES...
KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON HIM, MEN. MR. JACKSON HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR.!
FOR A LONG TIME, NOTHING LIVING MOVES IN THE 10-STORY PILE OF RUBBLE. AND THEN, A HUGE GREEN HAND SLOWLY EMERGES...
...FOLLOWED BY THE HEAD OF A MIGHTY BEING WHO IS TIRED AND SORE...
... AND STILL ANGRY.!
BUT EVEN FOR THE HULK, THIS RAMPAGE HAS BEEN A WEARYING TRIAL.
HE STAGGERS FROM THE WRECKAGE WITH SLOW, DELIBERATE STEPS, SWAYING SLIGHTLY ON HIS FEET--
-- UNTIL...
HULK!
THAT'S IT, LOOK AT ME!
WATCH ME, CLOSELY!
--AND LET THE MESMER EFFECT WASH OVER YOU!


IT TAKES BUT A SECOND FOR AARON TO MAKE HIS DECISION. WITH ALL THE POWER IN HIS CIRCUITS...
... HE SENDS A BOLT OF FORCE LANCING AT THE HULK'S FEET--




HE HAS DEALT WITH THE AUTHORITIES BEFORE. HE KNOWS THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF THIS LATEST RAMPAGE LIGHTLY.
AARON, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHERE'S THE HULK?



THE SAGA OF **MACHINE MAN,** ***THE LIVING ROBOT***
CONTINUES NEXT MONTH IN HIS OWN MAGAZINE... BY MARV WOLFMAN AND STEVE DITKO!

AND IN THE ***HULK'S*** *NEXT ISSUE...*
PRESIDENTIAL ACTION!

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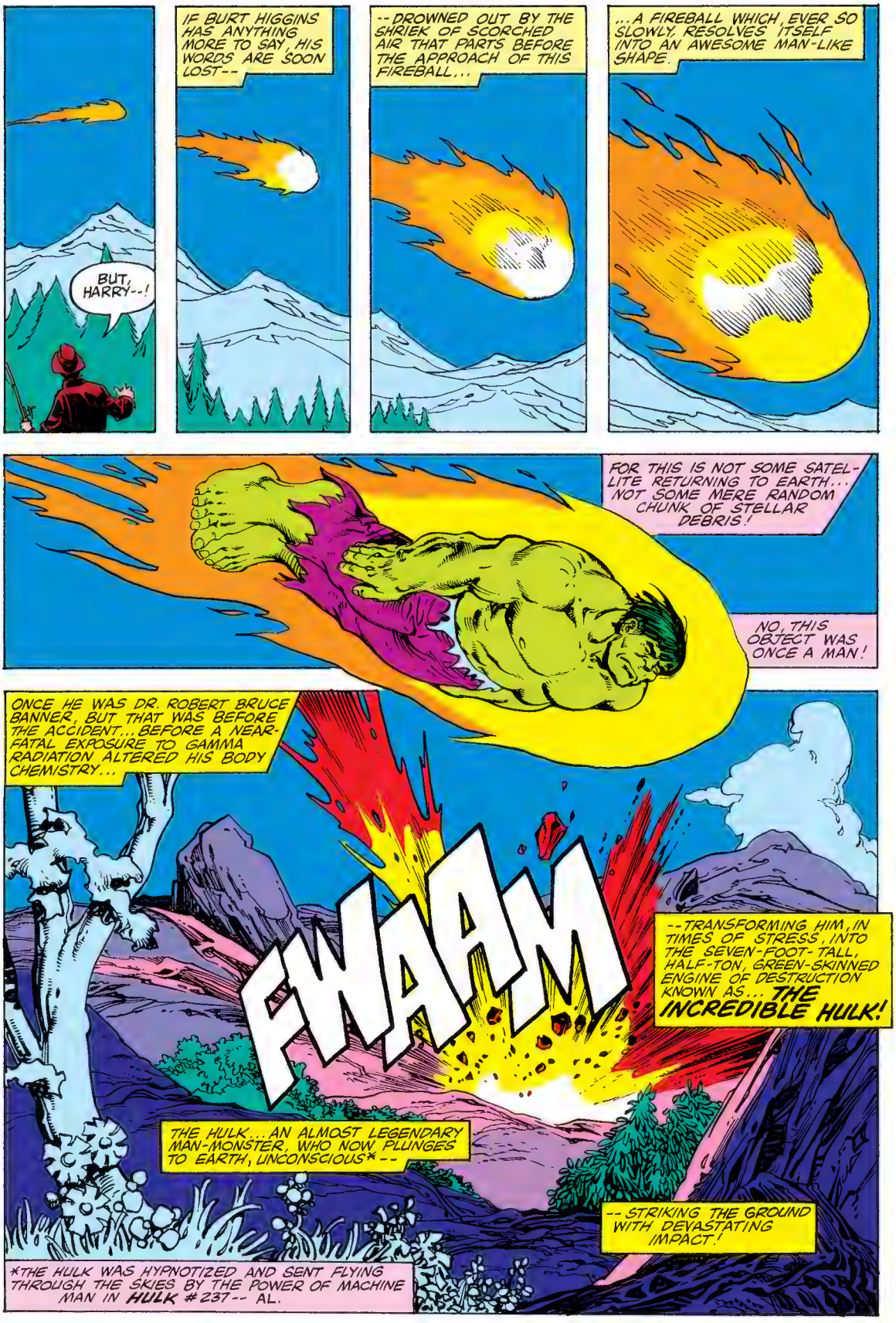
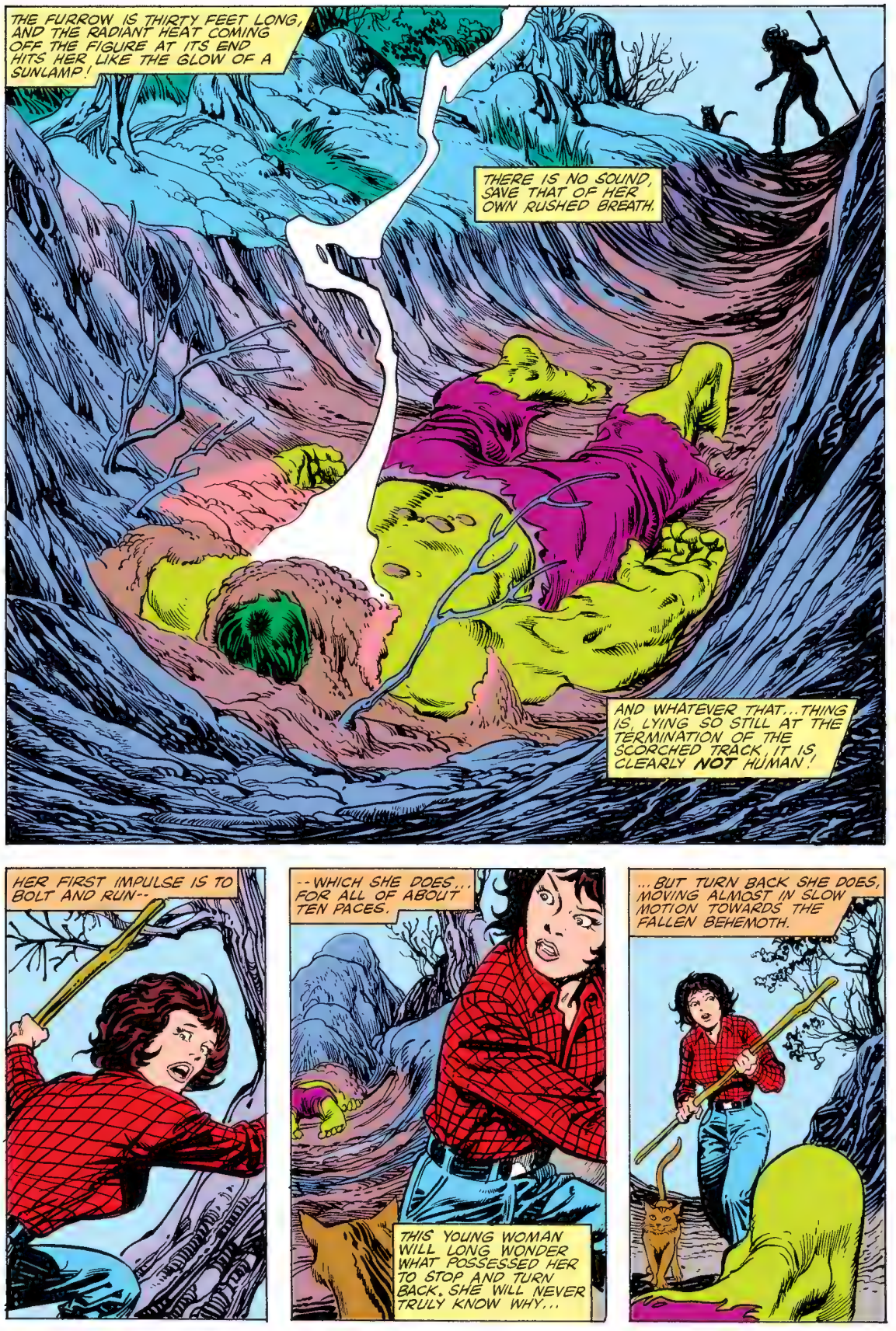
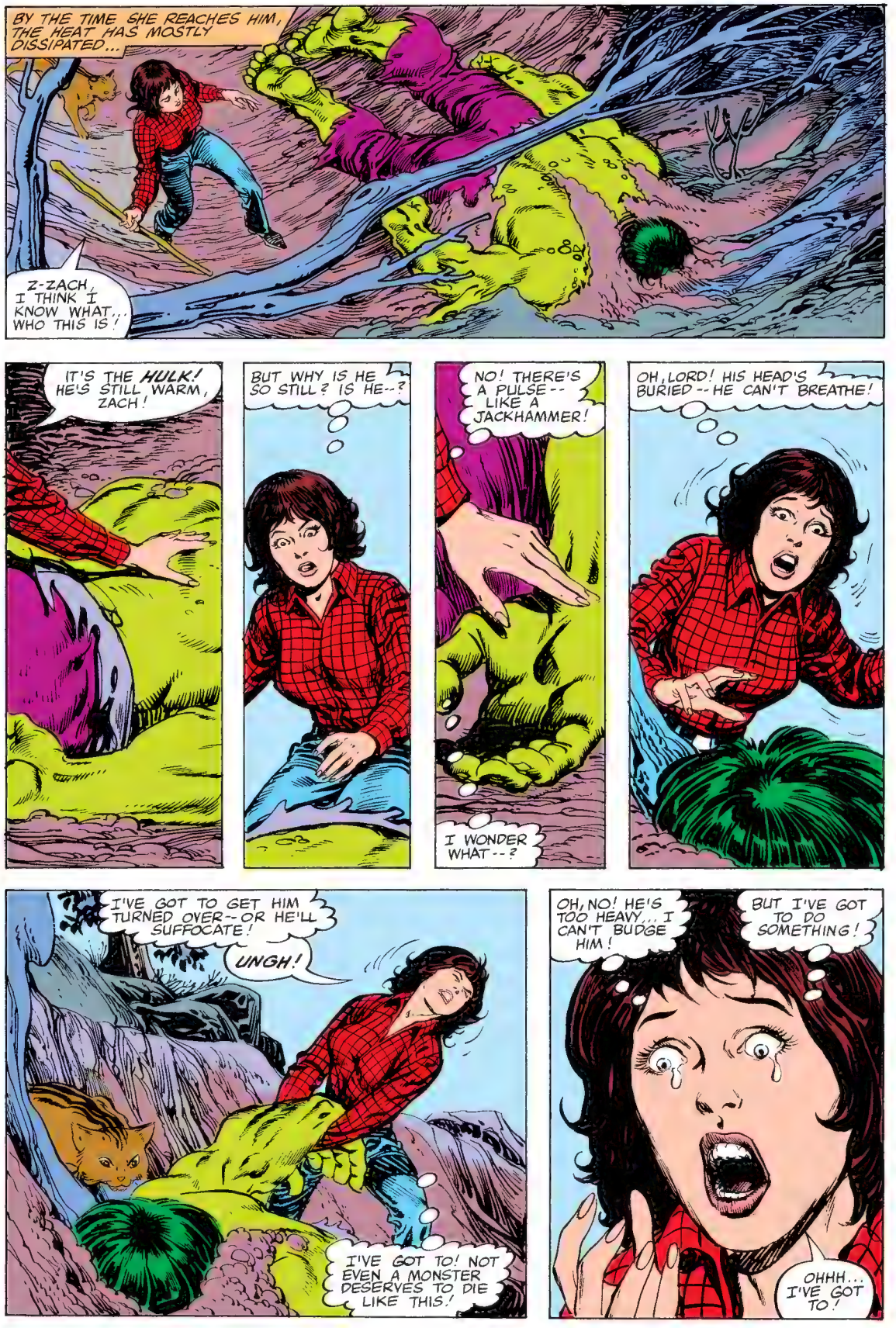
THE MAIDEN AND THE MONSTERS!

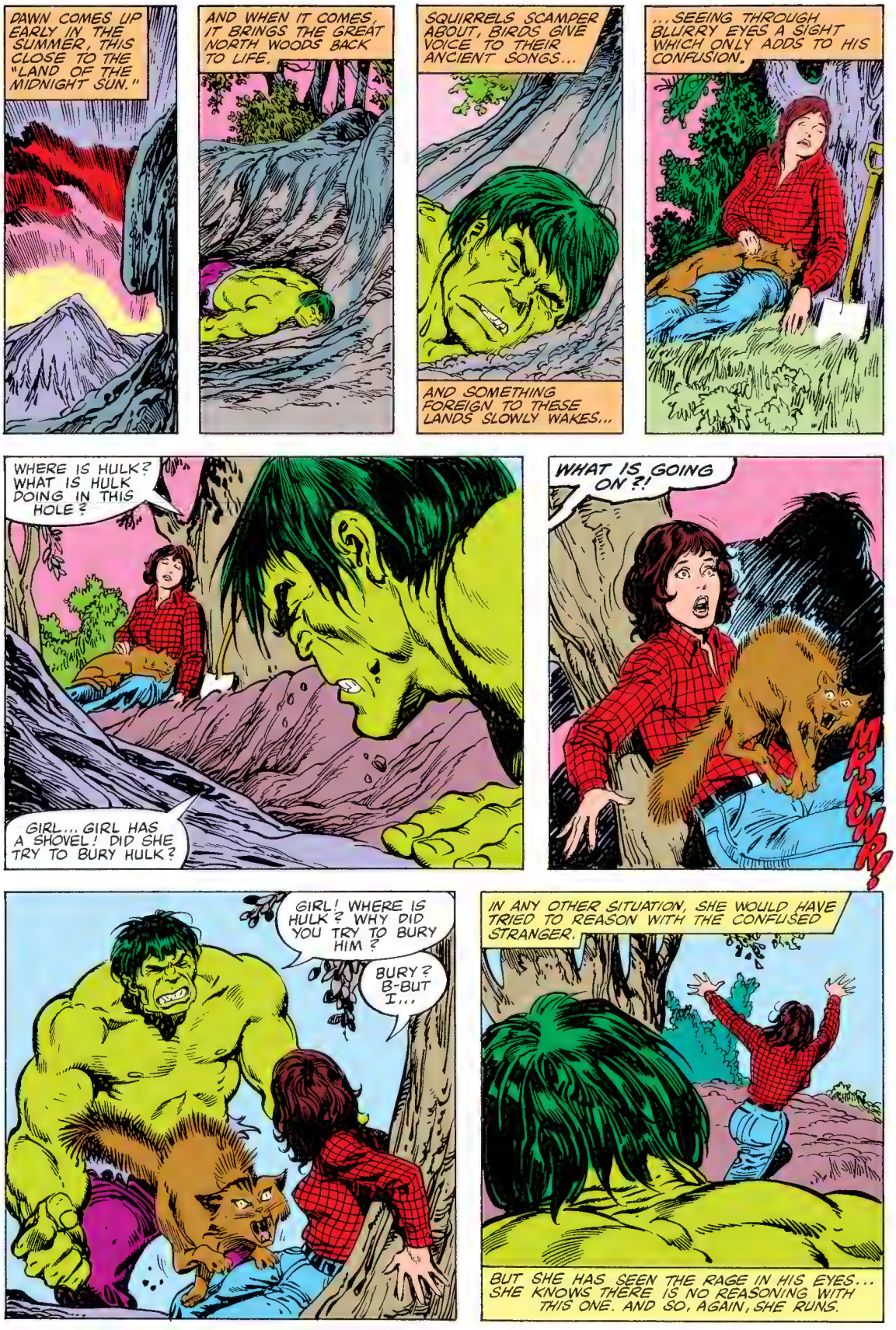
STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK® IN MORTAL COMBAT WITH...
SASQUATCH!
WHEN THE CO-OWNERS OF THE GOOD SHIP LOST LOVE CAME TO THIS QUIET LITTLE LAKE IN NORTHEASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA, THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO A WEEK OF PEACEFUL FISHING...
...ANTICIPATING NO DISTURBANCE GREATER THAN THE OCCASIONAL HONK OF A CANADIAN GOOSE, OR THE HAUNTING CRY OF THE LOON.
UH... HARRY? HARRY, LOOKIT!
THE LOST LOVE
ST LOVE
SHUDDUP, BURT, YOU'LL FRIGHTEN THE FISH.
THEY WERE HARDLY PREPARED FOR A BLAZING INTRUDER PLUMMETING FROM THE HEAVENS!*
ROGER STERN & JOHN BYRNE
WRITERS
SAL BUSCEMA & A·P. ALCALA
ARTISTS
JIM NOVAK
LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORIST
ALLEN MILGROM / JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
*THIS STORY TAKES PLACE CHRONOLOGICALLY BETWEEN ISSUES #237 AND #238 OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK --AL.


BUT, HARRY--!
IF BURT HIGGINS HAS ANYTHING MORE TO SAY, HIS WORDS ARE SOON LOST--
--DROWNED OUT BY THE SHRIEK OF SCORCHED AIR THAT PARTS BEFORE THE APPROACH OF THIS FIREBALL...
...A FIREBALL WHICH, EVER SO SLOWLY, RESOLVES ITSELF INTO AN AWESOME MAN-LIKE SHAPE.
FOR THIS IS NOT SOME SATELLITE RETURNING TO EARTH... NOT SOME MERE RANDOM CHUNK OF STELLAR DEBRIS!
NO, THIS OBJECT WAS ONCE A MAN!
ONCE HE WAS DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER, BUT THAT WAS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT... BEFORE A NEAR-FATAL EXPOSURE TO GAMMA RADIATION ALTERED HIS BODY CHEMISTRY...
FWAAM
--TRANSFORMING HIM, IN TIMES OF STRESS, INTO THE SEVEN-FOOT-TALL, HALF-TON, GREEN-SKINNED ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION KNOWN AS... THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
THE HULK... AN ALMOST LEGENDARY MAN-MONSTER, WHO NOW PLUNGES TO EARTH, UNCONSCIOUS* --
-- STRIKING THE GROUND WITH DEVASTATING IMPACT!
*THE HULK WAS HYPNOTIZED AND SENT FLYING THROUGH THE SKIES BY THE POWER OF MACHINE MAN IN HULK #237 -- AL.

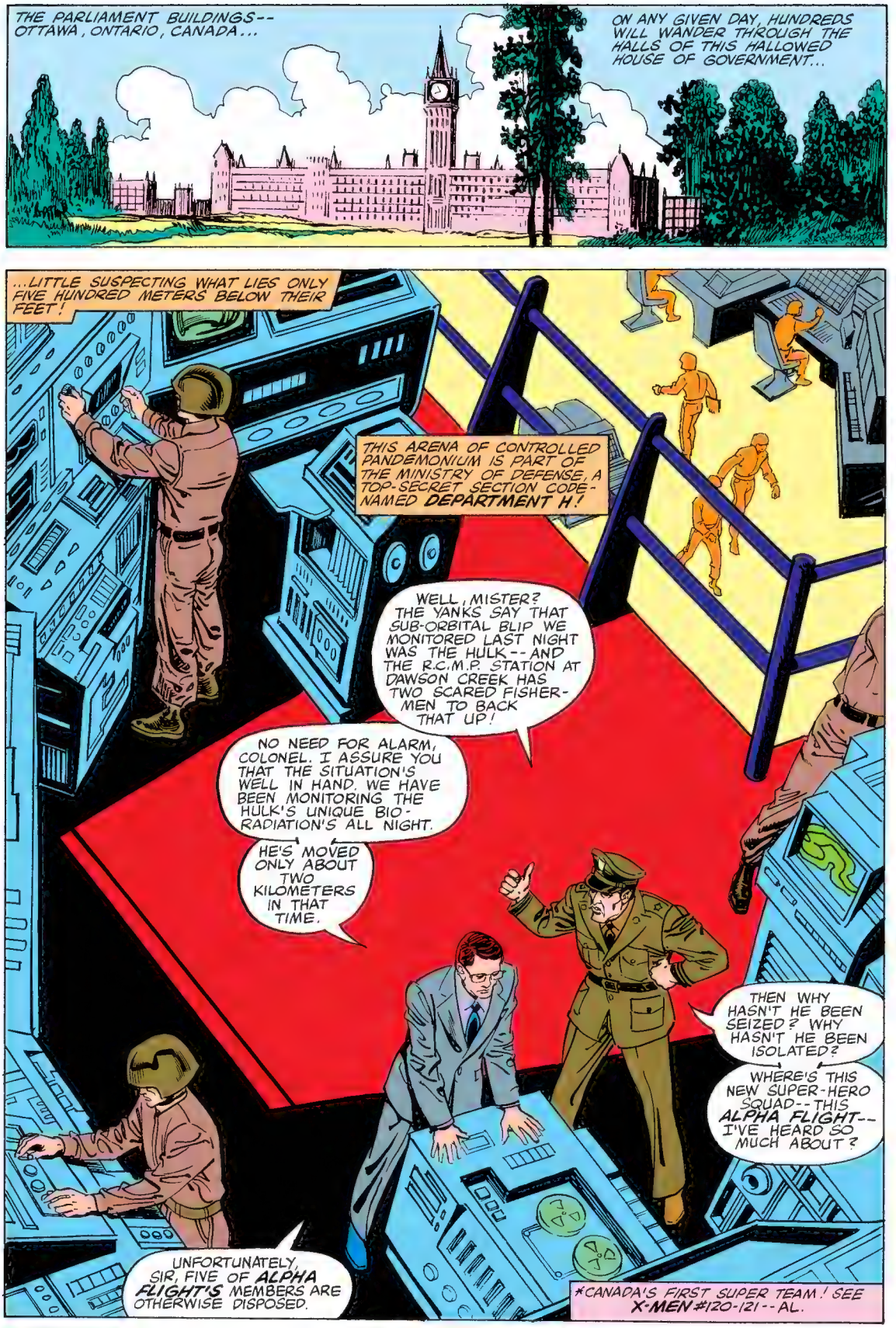
ONE MILE AWAY LIES A PEACEFUL LITTLE CABIN...
...WHERE, AT THE MOMENT OF IMPACT,...
FWAAM
MRROWRR!
OH!
ZACH! WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT?!
IT SOUNDED LIKE A SMALL EXPLOSION! COULD A PLANE HAVE CRASHED?
HSSS
OH, CALM YOURSELF, ZACHARIAH! AND C'MON...
...WE'D BETTER CHECK THIS OUT! SOMEONE MAY BE HURT OUT THERE!
AN ODD TABLEAU, THIS PETITE YOUNG WOMAN AND HER SLIGHTLY MANGY CAT...
...BUT NOT NEARLY SO ODD AS THE SIGHT WHICH AWAITS THEM!
MROW?
Z-ZACH!
OH... MY... GOD.

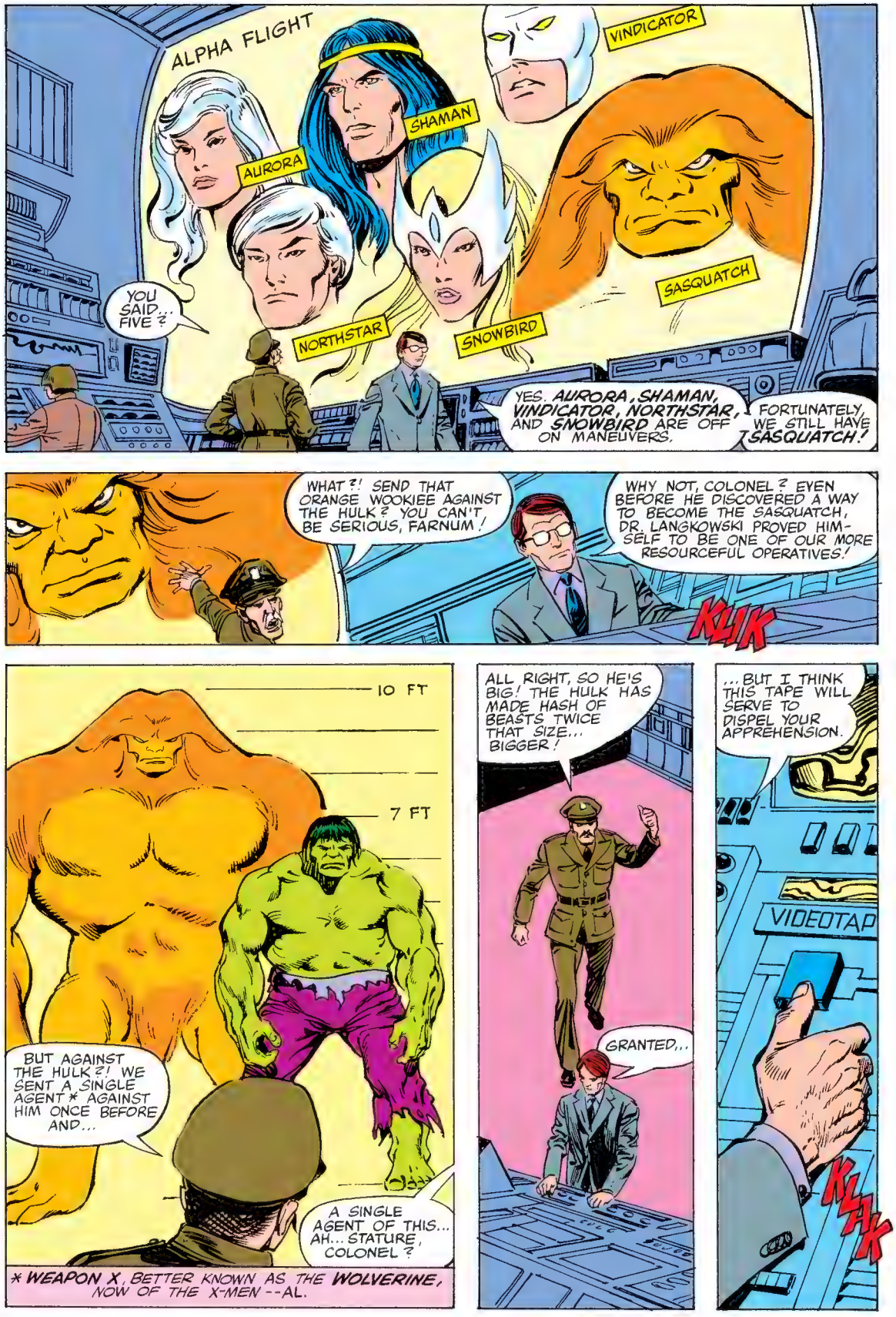

THE FURROW IS THIRTY FEET LONG, AND THE RADIANT HEAT COMING OFF THE FIGURE AT ITS END HITS HER LIKE THE GLOW OF A SUNLAMP!
THERE IS NO SOUND, SAVE THAT OF HER OWN RUSHED BREATH.
AND WHATEVER THAT...THING IS, LYING SO STILL AT THE TERMINATION OF THE SCORCHED TRACK, IT IS, CLEARLY NOT HUMAN!
HER FIRST IMPULSE IS TO BOLT AND RUN--
--WHICH SHE DOES... FOR ALL OF ABOUT TEN PACES.
THIS YOUNG WOMAN WILL LONG WONDER WHAT POSSESSED HER TO STOP AND TURN BACK. SHE WILL NEVER TRULY KNOW WHY...
...BUT TURN BACK SHE DOES, MOVING ALMOST IN SLOW MOTION TOWARDS THE FALLEN BEHEMOTH.

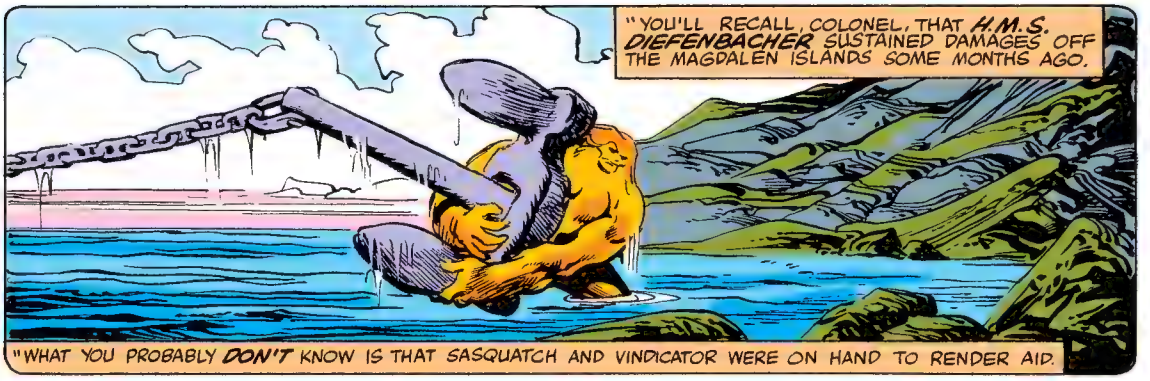

BY THE TIME SHE REACHES HIM, THE HEAT HAS MOSTLY DISSIPATED...
Z-ZACH, I THINK I KNOW WHAT... WHO THIS IS!
IT'S THE HULK! HE'S STILL WARM, ZACH!
BUT WHY IS HE SO STILL? IS HE--?
NO! THERE'S A PULSE-- LIKE A JACKHAMMER!
I WONDER WHAT--?
OH, LORD! HIS HEAD'S BURIED--HE CAN'T BREATHE!
I'VE GOT TO GET HIM TURNED OVER--OR HE'LL SUFFOCATE!
UNGH!
I'VE GOT TO! NOT EVEN A MONSTER DESERVES TO DIE LIKE THIS!
OH, NO! HE'S TOO HEAVY... I CAN'T BUDGE HIM!
BUT I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
OHHH... I'VE GOT TO!

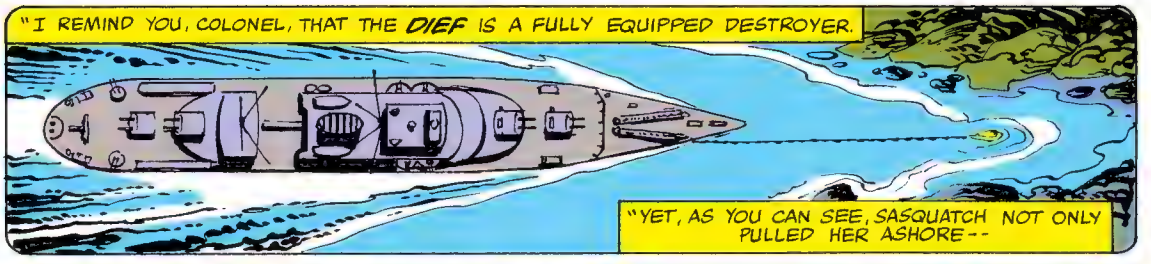

DAWN COMES UP EARLY IN THE SUMMER, THIS CLOSE TO THE "LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN."
AND WHEN IT COMES, IT BRINGS THE GREAT NORTH WOODS BACK TO LIFE.
SQUIRRELS SCAMPER ABOUT, BIRDS GIVE VOICE TO THEIR ANCIENT SONGS...
AND SOMETHING FOREIGN TO THESE LANDS SLOWLY WAKES...
...SEEING THROUGH BLURRY EYES A SIGHT WHICH ONLY ADDS TO HIS CONFUSION.
WHERE IS HULK? WHAT IS HULK DOING IN THIS HOLE?
GIRL... GIRL HAS A SHOVEL! DID SHE TRY TO BURY HULK?
WHAT IS GOING ON?!
MRRUWR!
GIRL! WHERE IS HULK? WHY DID YOU TRY TO BURY HIM?
BURY? B-BUT I...
IN ANY OTHER SITUATION, SHE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO REASON WITH THE CONFUSED STRANGER.
BUT SHE HAS SEEN THE RAGE IN HIS EYES... SHE KNOWS THERE IS NO REASONING WITH THIS ONE. AND SO, AGAIN, SHE RUNS.

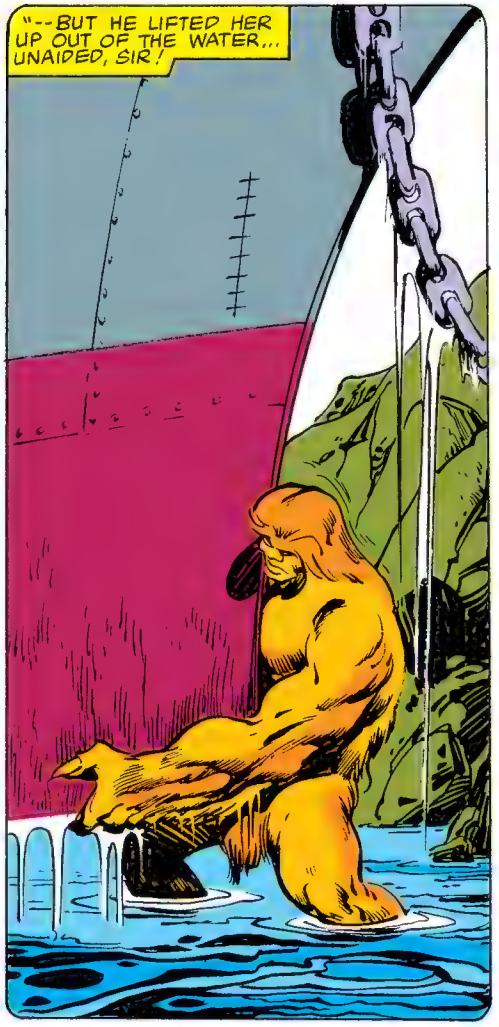
BUT, LIKE THE NIGHT BEFORE, SHE DOESN'T GET FAR...
AGH!
CLUMF
OH GOD, I'VE TWISTED MY ANKLE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!.. THIS ONLY HAPPENS IN THE MOVIES... NOT IN REAL LIFE... NOT TO ME!
ANSWER HULK! WHY DID YOU TRY TO BURY ME?
BUT I DIDN'T-- YOU WERE ALREADY BURIED!
I DUG OUT THE DIRT AROUND YOUR HEAD...SO YOU WOULDN'T SUFFOCATE!
SUFF-O-CATE?
OH... WHAT'S THE USE?
SHE CLOSES HER EYES, WAITING RESIGNEDLY FOR THE KILLING BLOW...
...WHICH NEVER COMES.
GIRL TRIED TO HELP HULK?
THEN... GIRL MUST BE HULK'S FRIEND.
THE GREAT GREEN HANDS ARE COARSE AND HOT, BUT THEIR TOUCH IS SOMEHOW... GENTLE.
WHERE DOES GIRL LIVE?
O-OVER THAT WAY-- ABOUT A MILE.
THEN HULK WILL TAKE YOU HOME.

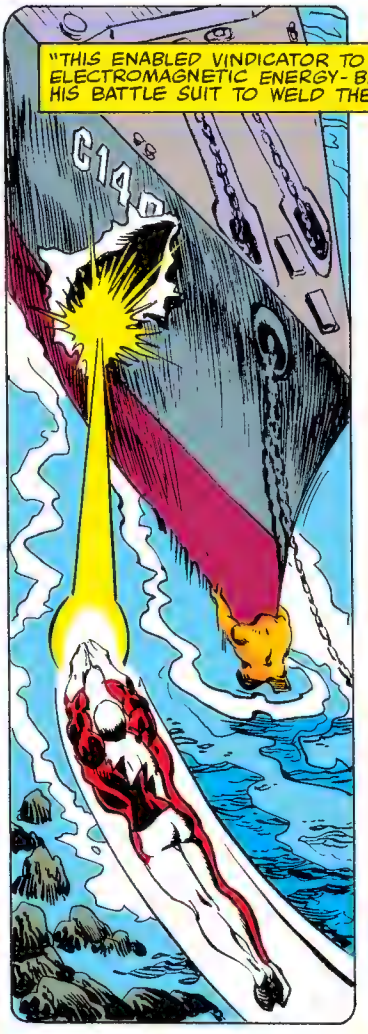

THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS--
OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA...
ON ANY GIVEN DAY, HUNDREDS WILL WANDER THROUGH THE HALLS OF THIS HALLOWED HOUSE OF GOVERNMENT...
...LITTLE SUSPECTING WHAT LIES ONLY FIVE HUNDRED METERS BELOW THEIR FEET!
THIS ARENA OF CONTROLLED PANDEMONIUM IS PART OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, A TOP-SECRET SECTION CODE-NAMED DEPARTMENT H!
WELL, MISTER? THE YANKS SAY THAT SUB-ORBITAL BLIP WE MONITORED LAST NIGHT WAS THE HULK--AND THE R.C.M.P. STATION AT DAWSON CREEK HAS TWO SCARED FISHERMEN TO BACK THAT UP!
NO NEED FOR ALARM, COLONEL. I ASSURE YOU THAT THE SITUATION'S WELL IN HAND. WE HAVE BEEN MONITORING THE HULK'S UNIQUE BIO-RADIATION'S ALL NIGHT.
HE'S MOVED ONLY ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS IN THAT TIME.
THEN WHY HASN'T HE BEEN SEIZED? WHY HASN'T HE BEEN ISOLATED?
WHERE'S THIS NEW SUPER-HERO SQUAD--THIS ALPHA FLIGHT--I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?
UNFORTUNATELY, SIR, FIVE OF ALPHA FLIGHT'S MEMBERS ARE OTHERWISE DISPOSED.
*CANADA'S FIRST SUPER TEAM! SEE X-MEN #120-121--AL.


ALPHA FLIGHT
AURORA
SHAMAN
VINDICATOR
SASQUATCH
NORTHSTAR
SNOWBIRD
YOU SAID... FIVE?
YES. AURORA, SHAMAN, VINDICATOR, NORTHSTAR, AND SNOWBIRD ARE OFF ON MANEUVERS.
FORTUNATELY, WE STILL HAVE SASQUATCH!
WHAT?! SEND THAT ORANGE WOOKIEE AGAINST THE HULK? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, FARNUM!
WHY NOT, COLONEL? EVEN BEFORE HE DISCOVERED A WAY TO BECOME THE SASQUATCH, DR. LANGKOWSKI PROVED HIMSELF TO BE ONE OF OUR MORE RESOURCEFUL OPERATIVES!
KLIK
10 FT
7 FT
BUT AGAINST THE HULK?! WE SENT A SINGLE AGENT* AGAINST HIM ONCE BEFORE AND...
A SINGLE AGENT OF THIS... AH... STATURE, COLONEL?
*WEAPON X, BETTER KNOWN AS THE WOLVERINE, NOW OF THE X-MEN --AL.
ALL RIGHT, SO HE'S BIG! THE HULK HAS MADE HASH OF BEASTS TWICE THAT SIZE... BIGGER!
GRANTED,..
...BUT I THINK THIS TAPE WILL SERVE TO DISPEL YOUR APPREHENSION.
VIDEOTAP
KLIK

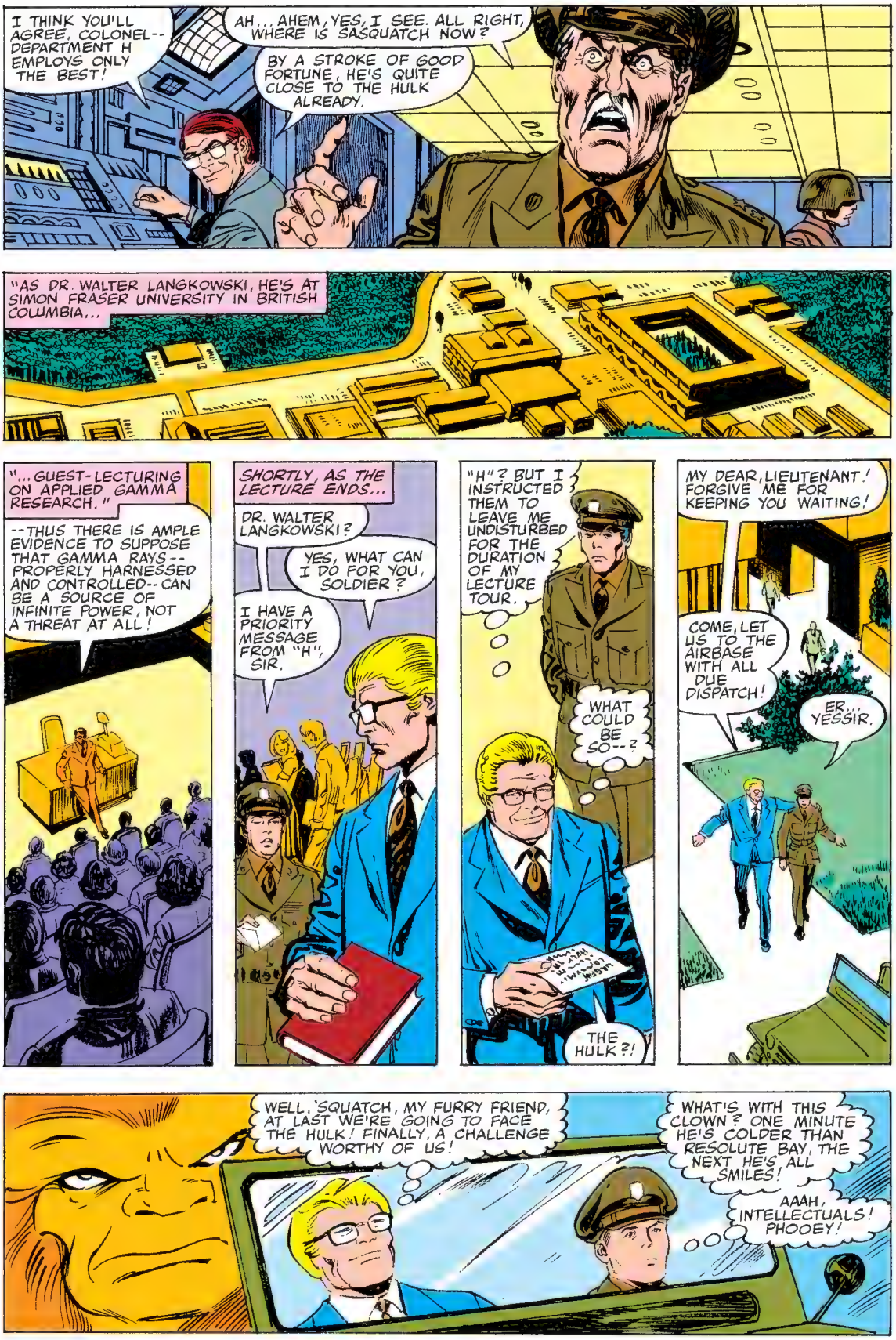

"YOU'LL RECALL, COLONEL, THAT H.M.S. DIEFENBACHER SUSTAINED DAMAGES OFF THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS SOME MONTHS AGO.
"WHAT YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW IS THAT SASQUATCH AND VINDICATOR WERE ON HAND TO RENDER AID.


"I REMIND YOU, COLONEL, THAT THE DIEF IS A FULLY EQUIPPED DESTROYER.
"YET, AS YOU CAN SEE, SASQUATCH NOT ONLY PULLED HER ASHORE--


"--BUT HE LIFTED HER UP OUT OF THE WATER... UNAIDED, SIR!

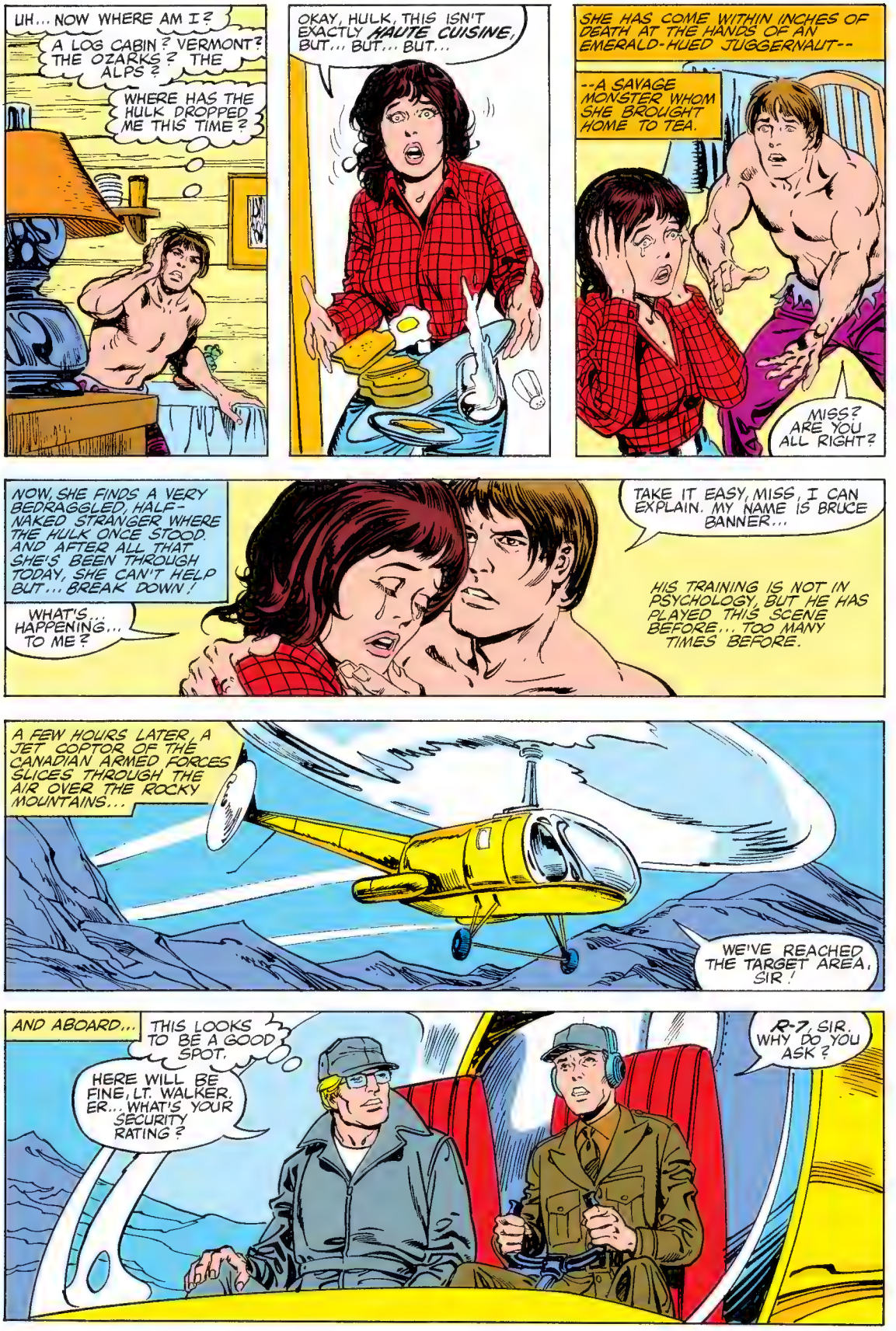

"THIS ENABLED VINDICATOR TO USE THE ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY-BEAM OF HIS BATTLE SUIT TO WELD THE TORN HULL.
C14

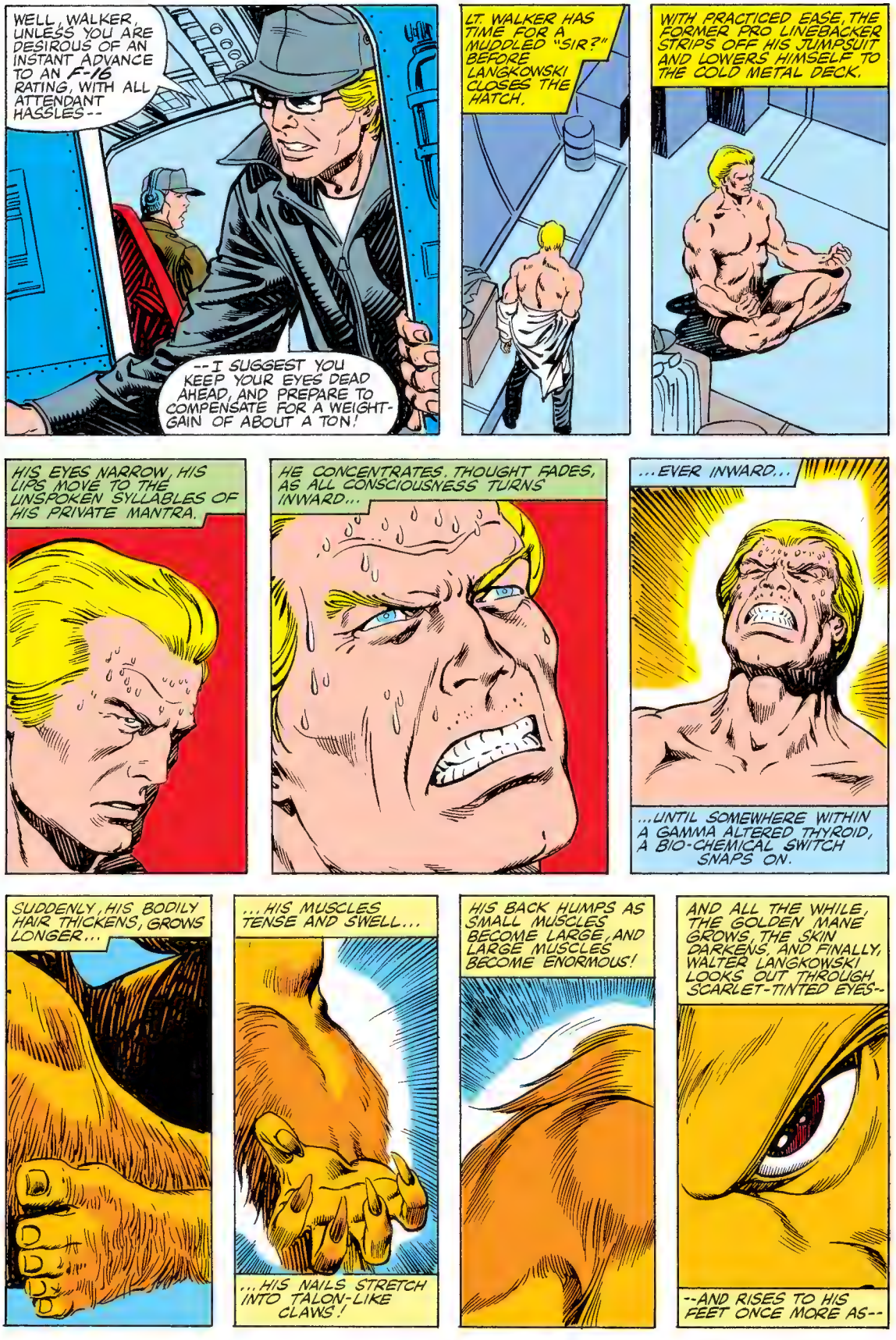
"REPAIRS EFFECTED, SASQUATCH THEN PUSHED THE SHIP BACK INTO DEEP WATER."

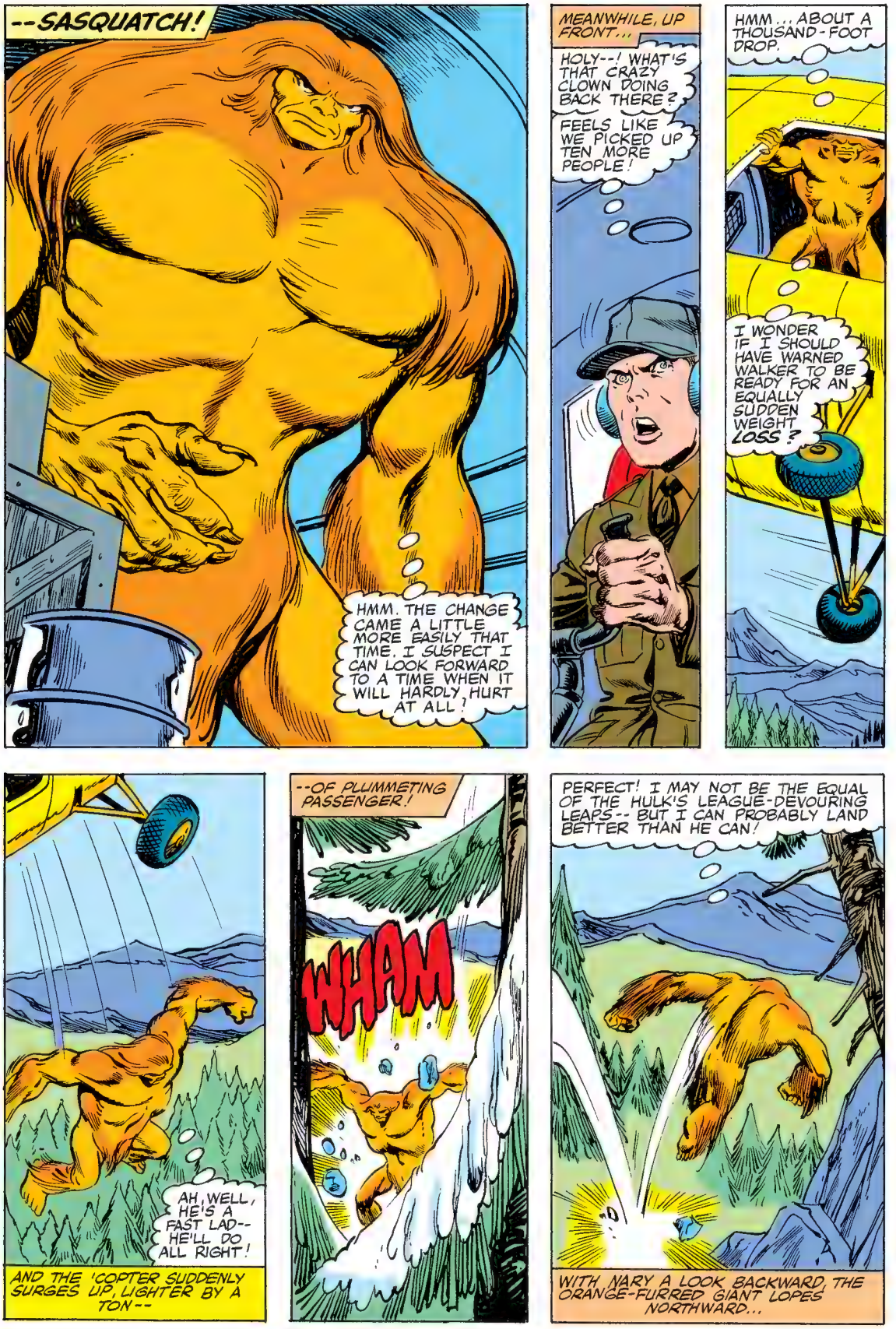

I THINK YOU'LL AGREE, COLONEL--DEPARTMENT H EMPLOYS ONLY THE BEST!
AH... AHEM, YES, I SEE. ALL RIGHT, WHERE IS SASQUATCH NOW?
BY A STROKE OF GOOD FORTUNE, HE'S QUITE CLOSE TO THE HULK ALREADY.
"AS DR. WALTER LANGKOWSKI, HE'S AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA...
"...GUEST-LECTURING ON APPLIED GAMMA RESEARCH."
--THUS THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE TO SUPPOSE THAT GAMMA RAYS--PROPERLY HARNESSED AND CONTROLLED--CAN BE A SOURCE OF INFINITE POWER, NOT A THREAT AT ALL!
SHORTLY, AS THE LECTURE ENDS...
DR. WALTER LANGKOWSKI?
YES, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SOLDIER?
I HAVE A PRIORITY MESSAGE FROM "H", SIR.
"H"? BUT I INSTRUCTED THEM TO LEAVE ME UNDISTURBED FOR THE DURATION OF MY LECTURE TOUR.
WHAT COULD BE SO--?
THE HULK?!
MY DEAR, LIEUTENANT! FORGIVE ME FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING!
COME, LET US TO THE AIRBASE WITH ALL DUE DISPATCH!
ER... YESSIR.
WELL, 'SQUATCH, MY FURRY FRIEND, AT LAST WE'RE GOING TO FACE THE HULK! FINALLY, A CHALLENGE WORTHY OF US!
WHAT'S WITH THIS CLOWN? ONE MINUTE HE'S COLDER THAN RESOLUTE BAY, THE NEXT HE'S ALL SMILES!
AAAH, INTELLECTUALS! PHOOEY!

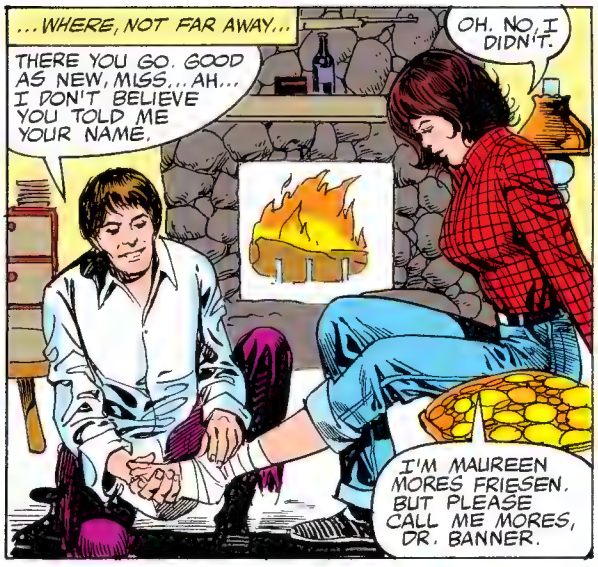
MEANWHILE, SOME SIX HUNDRED MILES TO THE NORTH...
PHST!
THIS IS MY HOUSE, HULK, SO B-BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
"BE CAREFUL?" WHAT'LL I DO IF HE ISN'T? SWAT HIM WITH A BROOM?
HUNH! GIRL LIVES IN THIS TINY HOUSE? PLACE IS TOO SMALL--WALLS AND ROOF ARE ALL TOO CLOSE TO HULK!
WELL, MAYBE IF YOU SIT...ON THE FLOOR?
THE FLOORBOARDS CREAK IN PAINFUL PROTEST...
...BUT THE HULK SITS.
N-NOW, HOLD STILL HULK.
YOUR BACK STILL LOOKS A LITTLE RAW. I'VE HEARD THAT YOU HEAL FAST, BUT... WELL, THIS WILL MAKE IT FEEL BETTER, ANYWAY.
MPH.

NOW, WILL YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH, SO I CAN TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE?
WHY?
GOOD POINT. HOW WOULD I KNOW WHAT IS NORMAL FOR HIM, ANYWAY?
OKAY, FORGET THE THERMOMETER. AH... HOW ABOUT SOMETHING TO EAT?
EAT? YES, HULK WILL HAVE FOOD!
GREAT! YOU JUST SIT THERE FOR TWO SHAKES, AND I'LL WHIP SOMETHING UP.
HULK WILL SIT.
OW. ANKLE'S STILL KILLING ME--BETTER BE CAREFUL.
THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE EASIER THAN I'D EXPECTED, BUT I'M NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET.
I WONDER IF HE LIKES MUSIC? ANYTHING TO KEEP HIM CALM--!
THE RECORD WAS SELECTED AT RANDOM, BUT THE CHOICE IS APT.
THE MELODIC STRAINS OF "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" WASH ACROSS THE HULK, SOOTHING, CALMING...
...AND SLOWLY, THE MIGHTY, GAMMA-SPAWNED TITAN RELAXES.
HIS THUNDERING HEARTBEAT SLOWS, HIS MUSCLES UNTENSE...
...SOFTEN, GROWING STEADILY WEAKER...
...UNTIL THE NEAR-MAGICAL TRANSFORMATION HAS RUN ITS COURSE--
--AND A SLIGHTLY CONFUSED DR. BANNER IS RETURNED TO THE WORLD OF MEN.


UH... NOW WHERE AM I?
A LOG CABIN? VERMONT? THE OZARKS? THE ALPS?
WHERE HAS THE HULK DROPPED ME THIS TIME?
OKAY, HULK, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY HAUTE CUISINE, BUT... BUT... BUT...
SHE HAS COME WITHIN INCHES OF DEATH AT THE HANDS OF AN EMERALD-HUED JUGGERNAUT--
--A SAVAGE MONSTER WHOM SHE BROUGHT HOME TO TEA.
MISS? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOW, SHE FINDS A VERY BEDRAGGLED, HALF-NAKED STRANGER WHERE THE HULK ONCE STOOD. AND AFTER ALL THAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH TODAY, SHE CAN'T HELP BUT... BREAK DOWN!
WHAT'S... HAPPENING... TO ME?
TAKE IT EASY, MISS, I CAN EXPLAIN. MY NAME IS BRUCE BANNER...
HIS TRAINING IS NOT IN PSYCHOLOGY, BUT HE HAS PLAYED THIS SCENE BEFORE... TOO MANY TIMES BEFORE.
A FEW HOURS LATER, A JET COPTOR OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES SLICES THROUGH THE AIR OVER THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS...
WE'VE REACHED THE TARGET AREA, SIR!
AND ABOARD...
THIS LOOKS TO BE A GOOD SPOT.
HERE WILL BE FINE, LT. WALKER. ER... WHAT'S YOUR SECURITY RATING?
R-7, SIR. WHY DO YOU ASK?


WELL, WALKER, UNLESS YOU ARE DESIROUS OF AN INSTANT ADVANCE TO AN F-16 RATING, WITH ALL ATTENDANT HASSLES--
--I SUGGEST YOU KEEP YOUR EYES DEAD AHEAD, AND PREPARE TO COMPENSATE FOR A WEIGHT-GAIN OF ABOUT A TON!
LT. WALKER HAS TIME FOR A MUDDLED "SIR?" BEFORE LANGKOWSKI CLOSES THE HATCH.
WITH PRACTICED EASE, THE FORMER PRO LINEBACKER STRIPS OFF HIS JUMPSUIT AND LOWERS HIMSELF TO THE COLD METAL DECK.
HIS EYES NARROW, HIS LIPS MOVE TO THE UNSPOKEN SYLLABLES OF HIS PRIVATE MANTRA.
HE CONCENTRATES. THOUGHT FADES, AS ALL CONSCIOUSNESS TURNS INWARD...
...EVER INWARD...
...UNTIL SOMEWHERE WITHIN A GAMMA ALTERED THYROID, A BIO-CHEMICAL SWITCH SNAPS ON.
SUDDENLY, HIS BODILY HAIR THICKENS, GROWS LONGER...
...HIS MUSCLES TENSE AND SWELL...
...HIS NAILS STRETCH INTO TALON-LIKE CLAWS!
HIS BACK HUMPS AS SMALL MUSCLES BECOME LARGE, AND LARGE MUSCLES BECOME ENORMOUS!
AND ALL THE WHILE, THE GOLDEN MANE GROWS, THE SKIN DARKENS, AND FINALLY, WALTER LANGKOWSKI LOOKS OUT THROUGH SCARLET-TINTED EYES--
--AND RISES TO HIS FEET ONCE MORE AS--


--SASQUATCH!
HMM. THE CHANGE CAME A LITTLE MORE EASILY THAT TIME. I SUSPECT I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A TIME WHEN IT WILL HARDLY HURT AT ALL!
MEANWHILE, UP FRONT...
HOLY--! WHAT'S THAT CRAZY CLOWN DOING BACK THERE?
FEELS LIKE WE PICKED UP TEN MORE PEOPLE!
HMM... ABOUT A THOUSAND-FOOT DROP.
I WONDER IF I SHOULD HAVE WARNED WALKER TO BE READY FOR AN EQUALLY SUDDEN WEIGHT LOSS?
AH, WELL, HE'S A FAST LAD-- HE'LL DO ALL RIGHT!
AND THE 'COPTER SUDDENLY SURGES UP, LIGHTER BY A TON--
--OF PLUMMETING PASSENGER!
WHAM
PERFECT! I MAY NOT BE THE EQUAL OF THE HULK'S LEAGUE-DEVOURING LEAPS-- BUT I CAN PROBABLY LAND BETTER THAN HE CAN!
WITH NARY A LOOK BACKWARD, THE ORANGE-FURRED GIANT LOPES NORTHWARD...


...WHERE, NOT FAR AWAY...
THERE YOU GO. GOOD AS NEW, MISS... AH... I DON'T BELIEVE YOU TOLD ME YOUR NAME.
OH. NO, I DIDN'T.
I'M MAUREEN MORES FRIESEN. BUT PLEASE CALL ME MORES, DR. BANNER.

UM... EXCUSE A SILLY QUESTION, BUT WHY ARE YOU SO GLUM? AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU CHANGED BACK TO NORMAL?
GLAD?
'GLAD' DOESN'T BEGIN TO EXPRESS HOW I FEEL. IT'S JUST THAT I'M NEVER SURE HOW LONG I'LL BE THIS WAY.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW. NOT WHEN I HAVEN'T EVEN THANKED YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE-- THE HULK'S LIFE, I MEAN.
HOW DO YOU COME TO BE OUT IN THE WILDS ALONE?
OH, I'M NOT REALLY ALONE, BRUCE.

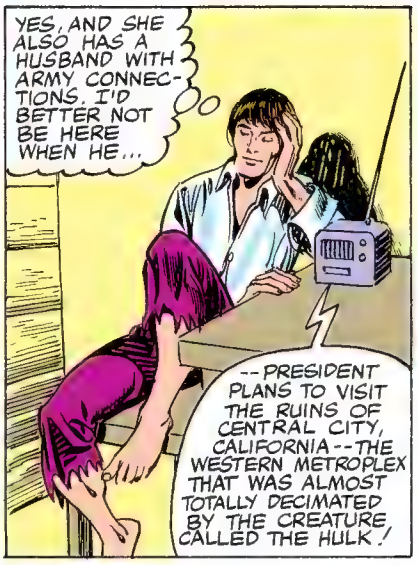
NELSON-- THAT'S MY HUSBAND-- WENT IN-TO TOWN TO DELIVER A BABY. HE'S AN ARMY DOCTOR--
--AND SINCE THE LOCAL DOCTOR TOOK ILL, HE VOLUNTEERED TO FILL IN.

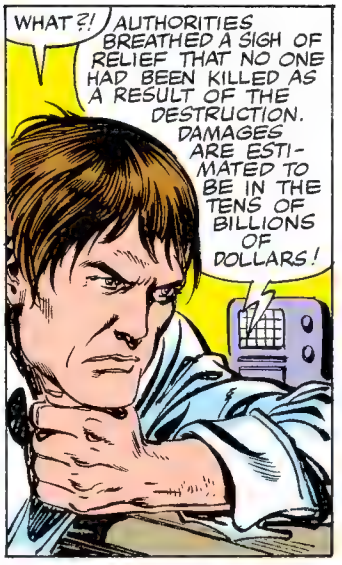
HUSBAND, EH? I WONDER IF HE KNOWS HOW LUCKY HE IS? HE KNOWS A JOY I CAN NEVER REALIZE.
I'M TRAINED AS A NURSE, AND ORDINARILY I'D HAVE GONE WITH HIM, BUT...
...HEY! ARE YOU OKAY?

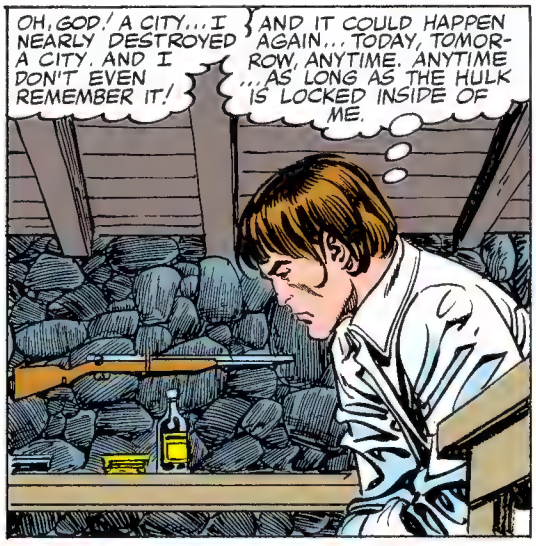
HM? OH, I'M OKAY... SURE. I... OOPS, YOUR CAT'S GETTING OUT!
ZACH?

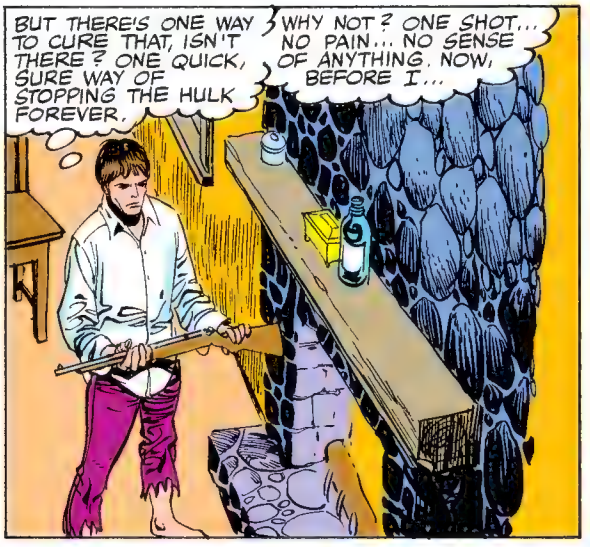
NOW WHAT'S GOT INTO HIM? HE NEVER GOES OUT WITHOUT ME!
SHALL I--?
NO, YOU STAY AND REST. I'LL BE OKAY... REALLY!

REST?! SHE HOBBLES AROUND ON A TWISTED ANKLE, AND SHE TELLS ME TO REST!
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR YOU, MIZ MORES--YOU GOT SPUNK!


YES, AND SHE ALSO HAS A HUSBAND WITH ARMY CONNECTIONS. I'D BETTER NOT BE HERE WHEN HE...
--PRESIDENT PLANS TO VISIT THE RUINS OF CENTRAL CITY, CALIFORNIA--THE WESTERN METROPLEX THAT WAS ALMOST TOTALLY DECIMATED BY THE CREATURE, CALLED THE HULK!


WHAT?!
AUTHORITIES BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF THAT NO ONE HAD BEEN KILLED AS A RESULT OF THE DESTRUCTION. DAMAGES ARE ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS!

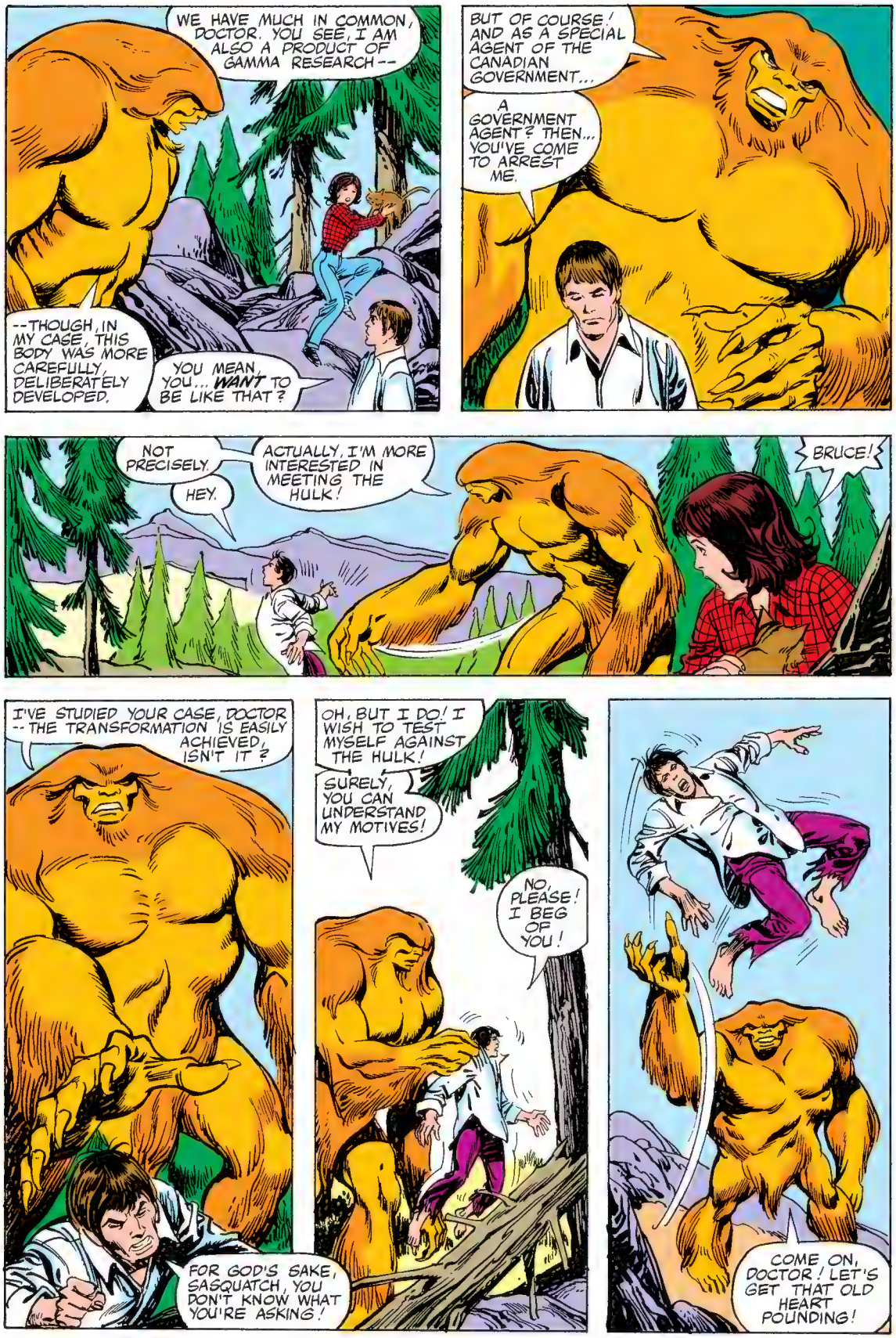

OH, GOD! A CITY... I NEARLY DESTROYED A CITY. AND I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER IT!
AND IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN... TODAY, TOMORROW, ANYTIME. ANYTIME ...AS LONG AS THE HULK IS LOCKED INSIDE OF ME.

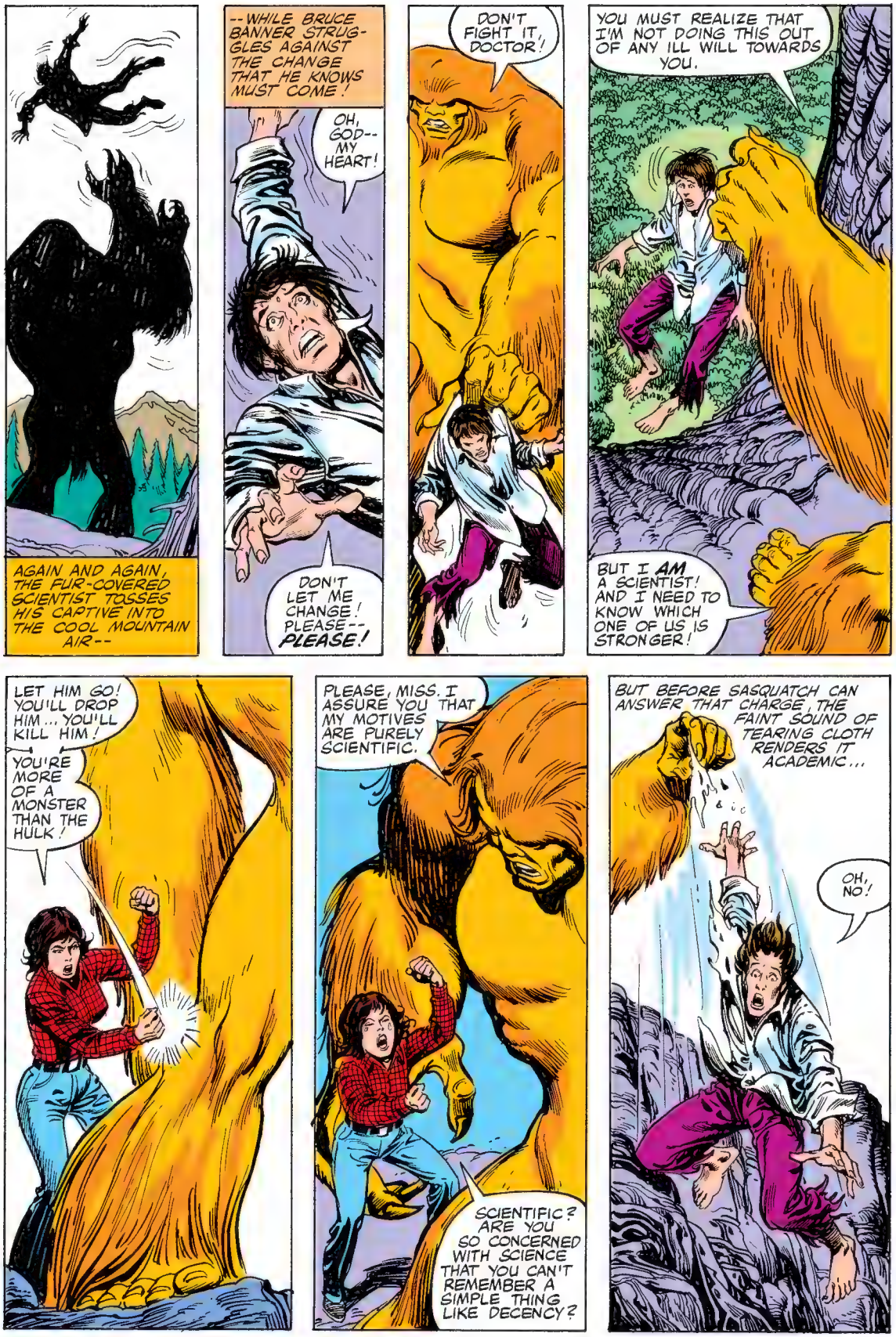

BUT THERE'S ONE WAY TO CURE THAT, ISN'T THERE? ONE QUICK, SURE WAY OF STOPPING THE HULK FOREVER.
WHY NOT? ONE SHOT... NO PAIN... NO SENSE OF ANYTHING. NOW, BEFORE I...

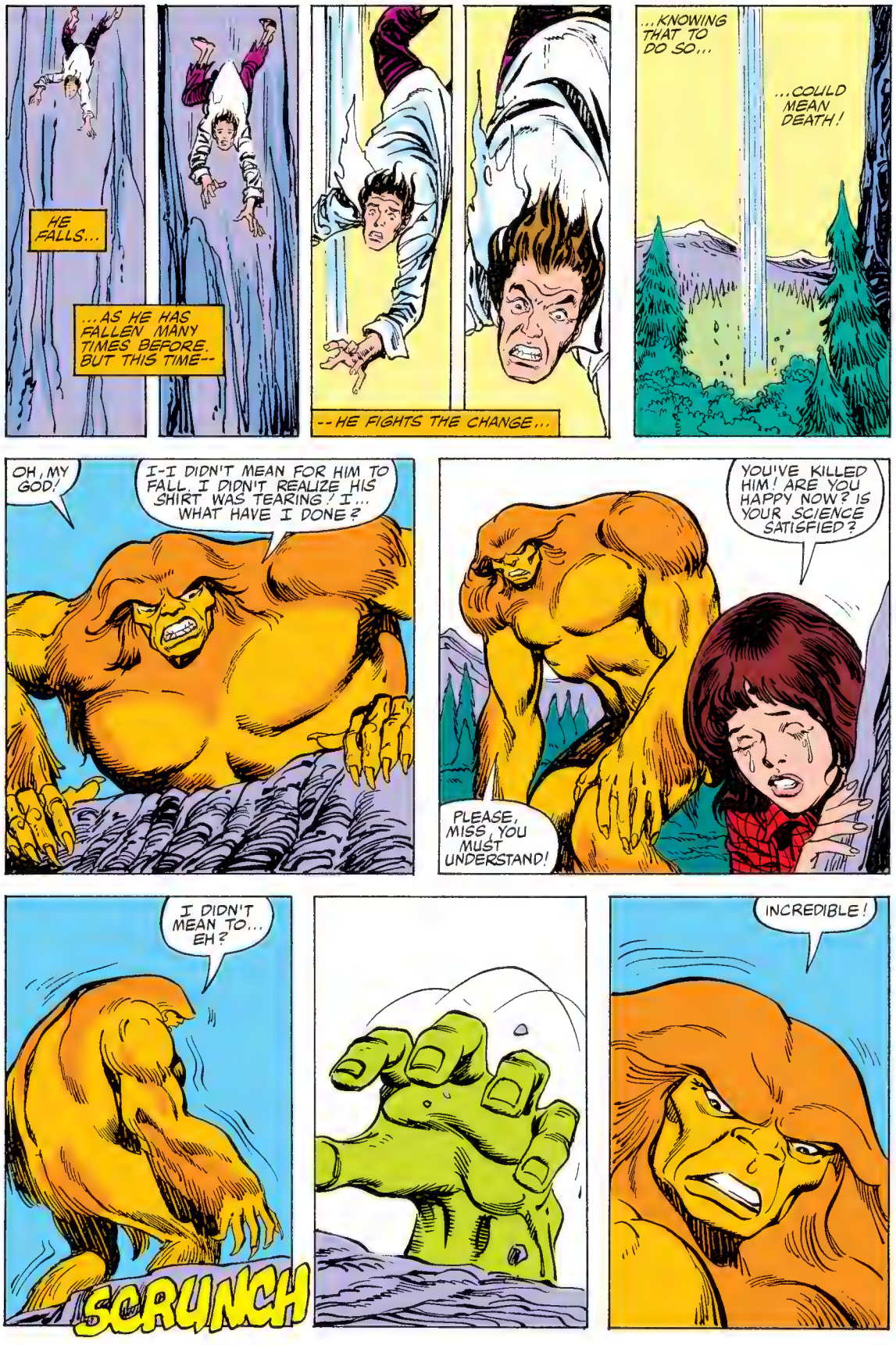
YYEEEEEEEEK!
WHAT? MORES!

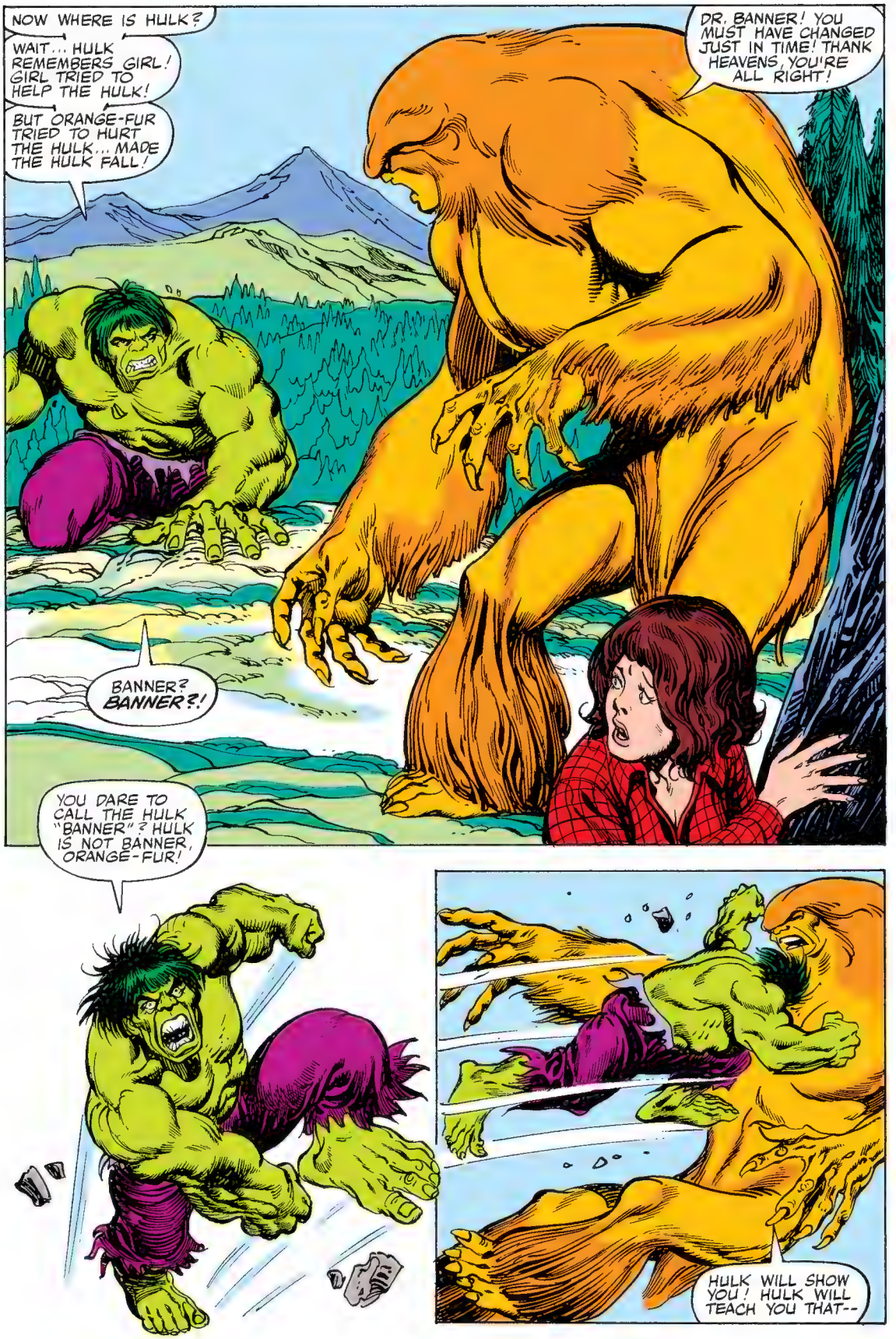
BLAST! I GOT SO WRAPPED UP IN MYSELF THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE HOW LONG SHE'D BEEN GONE!
IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO HER...

GOOD LORD!
BRUCE... HELP! DO SOMETHING!
MROWRR!
HE REACTS INSTINCTIVELY, SNAPPING THE RIFLE TO HIS SHOULDER -- SIGHTING ON THE HEART OF THE GREAT ORANGE NIGHTMARE!
BUT...
WHAT AM I DOING?
THIS...THIS IS THE WAY THEY ALWAYS REACT TO THE HULK!
I CAN'T DO IT... I JUST CAN'T!
A WISE DECISION, DOCTOR!
Y-YOU TALK?
OH, INDEED, DR. BANNER... AND QUITE ELOQUENTLY, I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE!
BRUCE, WHAT IS IT?
FORGIVE MY MANNERS, MISS. WERE DR. BANNER AND I HERE ALONE, I WOULD FORMALLY INTRODUCE MYSELF. BUT AS YOU UNDOUBTEDLY LACK THE REQUIRED SECURITY CLEARANCES...
...PLEASE CALL ME SASQUATCH!

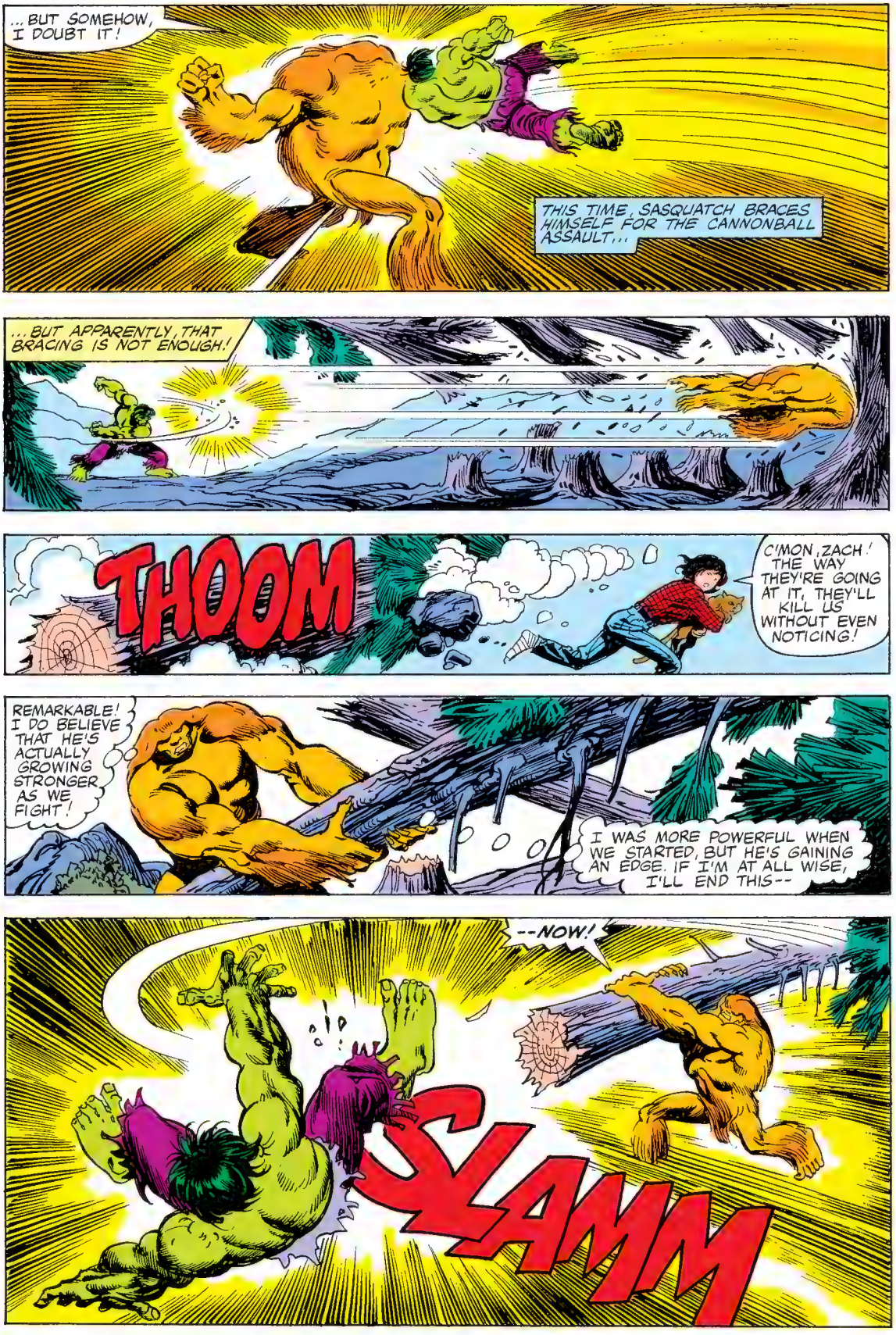

WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON, DOCTOR. YOU SEE, I AM ALSO A PRODUCT OF GAMMA RESEARCH--
--THOUGH, IN MY CASE, THIS BODY WAS MORE CAREFULLY, DELIBERATELY DEVELOPED.
YOU MEAN, YOU... WANT TO BE LIKE THAT?
BUT OF COURSE! AND AS A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT...
A GOVERNMENT AGENT? THEN... YOU'VE COME TO ARREST ME.
NOT PRECISELY.
HEY.
ACTUALLY, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN MEETING THE HULK!
BRUCE!
I'VE STUDIED YOUR CASE, DOCTOR -- THE TRANSFORMATION IS EASILY ACHIEVED, ISN'T IT?
FOR GOD'S SAKE, SASQUATCH, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING!
OH, BUT I DO! I WISH TO TEST MYSELF AGAINST THE HULK!
SURELY, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY MOTIVES!
NO, PLEASE! I BEG OF YOU!
COME ON, DOCTOR! LET'S GET THAT OLD HEART POUNDING!

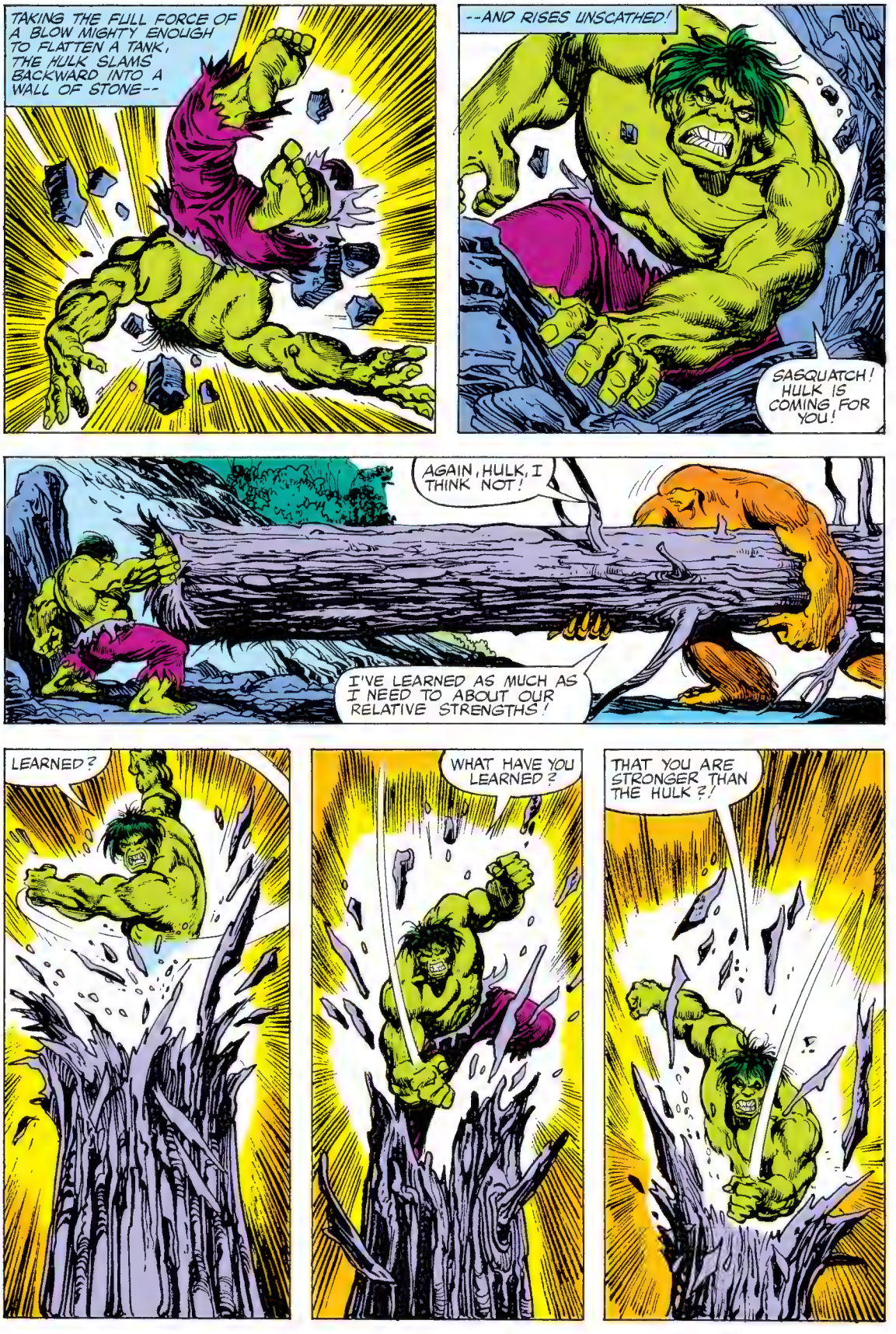

AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE FUR-COVERED SCIENTIST TOSSES HIS CAPTIVE INTO THE COOL MOUNTAIN AIR--
--WHILE BRUCE BANNER STRUGGLES AGAINST THE CHANGE THAT HE KNOWS MUST COME!
OH, GOD-- MY HEART!
DON'T LET ME CHANGE! PLEASE-- PLEASE!
DON'T FIGHT IT, DOCTOR!
YOU MUST REALIZE THAT I'M NOT DOING THIS OUT OF ANY ILL WILL TOWARDS YOU.
BUT I AM A SCIENTIST! AND I NEED TO KNOW WHICH ONE OF US IS STRONGER!
LET HIM GO! YOU'LL DROP HIM... YOU'LL KILL HIM!
YOU'RE MORE OF A MONSTER THAN THE HULK!
PLEASE, MISS. I ASSURE YOU THAT MY MOTIVES ARE PURELY SCIENTIFIC.
SCIENTIFIC? ARE YOU SO CONCERNED WITH SCIENCE THAT YOU CAN'T REMEMBER A SIMPLE THING LIKE DECENCY?
BUT BEFORE SASQUATCH CAN ANSWER THAT CHARGE, THE FAINT SOUND OF TEARING CLOTH RENDERS IT ACADEMIC...
OH, NO!


HE FALLS...
...AS HE HAS FALLEN MANY TIMES BEFORE. BUT THIS TIME--
--HE FIGHTS THE CHANGE...
...KNOWING THAT TO DO SO...
...COULD MEAN DEATH!
OH, MY GOD!
I-I DIDN'T MEAN FOR HIM TO FALL. I DIDN'T REALIZE HIS SHIRT WAS TEARING! I... WHAT HAVE I DONE?
YOU'VE KILLED HIM! ARE YOU HAPPY NOW? IS YOUR SCIENCE SATISFIED?
PLEASE, MISS, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO... EH?
SCRUNCH
INCREDIBLE!

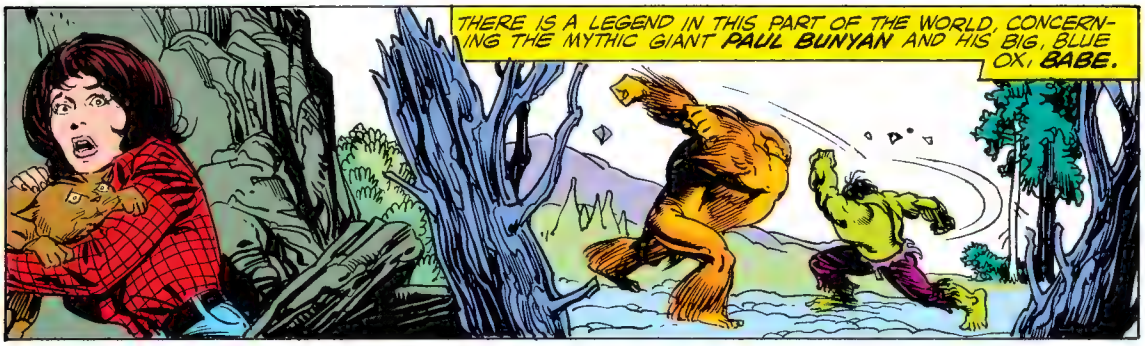

NOW WHERE IS HULK?
WAIT... HULK REMEMBERS GIRL! GIRL TRIED TO HELP THE HULK!
BUT ORANGE-FUR TRIED TO HURT THE HULK... MADE THE HULK FALL!
DR. BANNER! YOU MUST HAVE CHANGED JUST IN TIME! THANK HEAVENS, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
BANNER? BANNER?!
YOU DARE TO CALL THE HULK "BANNER"? HULK IS NOT BANNER, ORANGE-FUR!
HULK WILL SHOW YOU! HULK WILL TEACH YOU THAT--

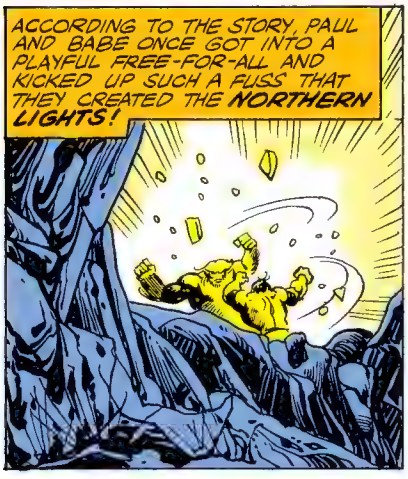
--HULK IS HULK!
BLAM
DO YOU HEAR HULK, ORANGE-FUR? DO YOU HEAR?
QUITE WELL, THANK YOU, HULK. BUT THAT NAME ISN'T ORANGE-FUR...
BLUNT
...IT'S SASQUATCH!
SKRASH
CRIPES! HE-HE KICKED HIM RIGHT THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN!
LOOK OUT, ZACH!
FOR A HEARTBEAT, THERE IS ONLY THE CLATTER OF FALLING ROCK. AND THEN...
YOU TRIED TO SMASH THE HULK! NOW HULK WILL SMASH YOU!
PERHAPS, HULK...

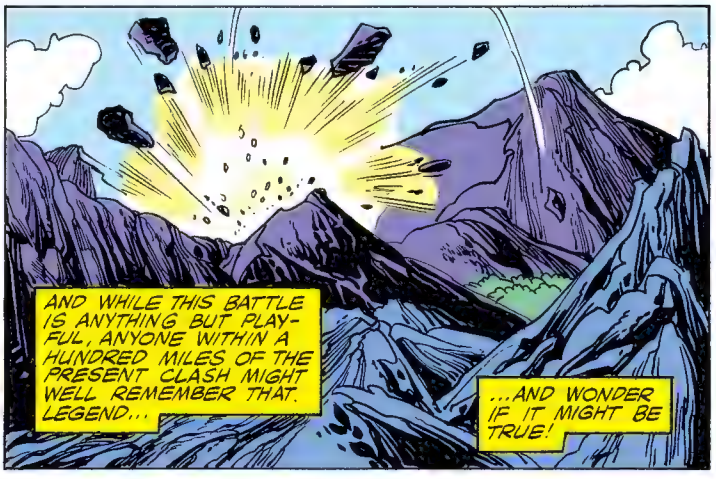

...BUT SOMEHOW, I DOUBT IT!
THIS TIME, SASQUATCH BRACES HIMSELF FOR THE CANNONBALL ASSAULT...
...BUT APPARENTLY, THAT BRACING IS NOT ENOUGH!
THOOM
C'MON, ZACH! THE WAY THEY'RE GOING AT IT, THEY'LL KILL US WITHOUT EVEN NOTICING!
REMARKABLE! I DO BELIEVE THAT HE'S ACTUALLY GROWING STRONGER AS WE FIGHT!
I WAS MORE POWERFUL WHEN WE STARTED, BUT HE'S GAINING AN EDGE. IF I'M AT ALL WISE, I'LL END THIS--
--NOW!
SLAMM

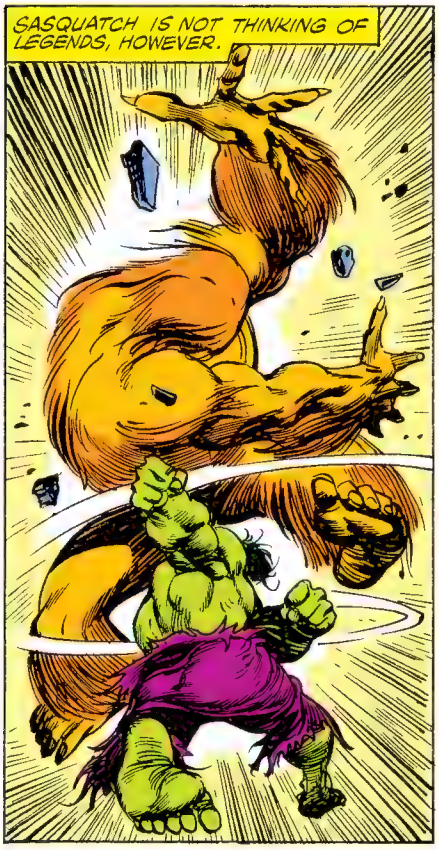

TAKING THE FULL FORCE OF A BLOW MIGHTY ENOUGH TO FLATTEN A TANK, THE HULK SLAMS BACKWARD INTO A WALL OF STONE--
--AND RISES UNSCATHED!
SASQUATCH! HULK IS COMING FOR YOU!
AGAIN, HULK, I THINK NOT!
I'VE LEARNED AS MUCH AS I NEED TO ABOUT OUR RELATIVE STRENGTHS!
LEARNED?
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?
THAT YOU ARE STRONGER THAN THE HULK?!

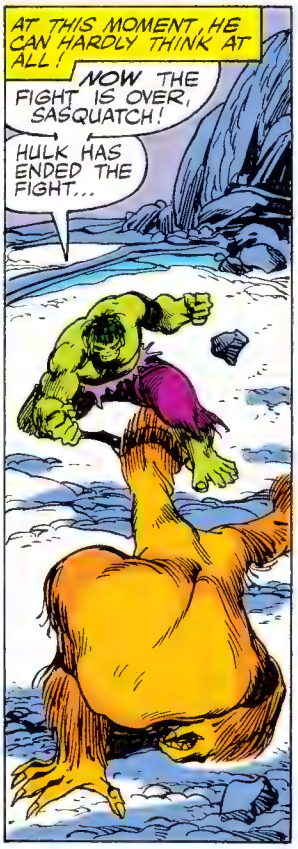
NO!!
SHO
OM
HOLD ON, ZACH... H-HOLD ON!
SORRY, HULK!
...RIGHT HERE AND NOW!
I'M NO FOOL. IF I WERE A FOOL, I'D GO ON FIGHTING, INSTEAD OF ENDING THIS BATTLE...
ENDING? BAH! HOW CAN FIGHT BE OVER--
--IF YOU ARE STILL ALIVE?!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS... STILL ANGRY...
...AND: WHUF: STRONGER THAN EVER!
WHUMP


THERE IS A LEGEND IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, CONCERNING THE MYTHIC GIANT PAUL BUNYAN AND HIS BIG, BLUE OX, BABE.

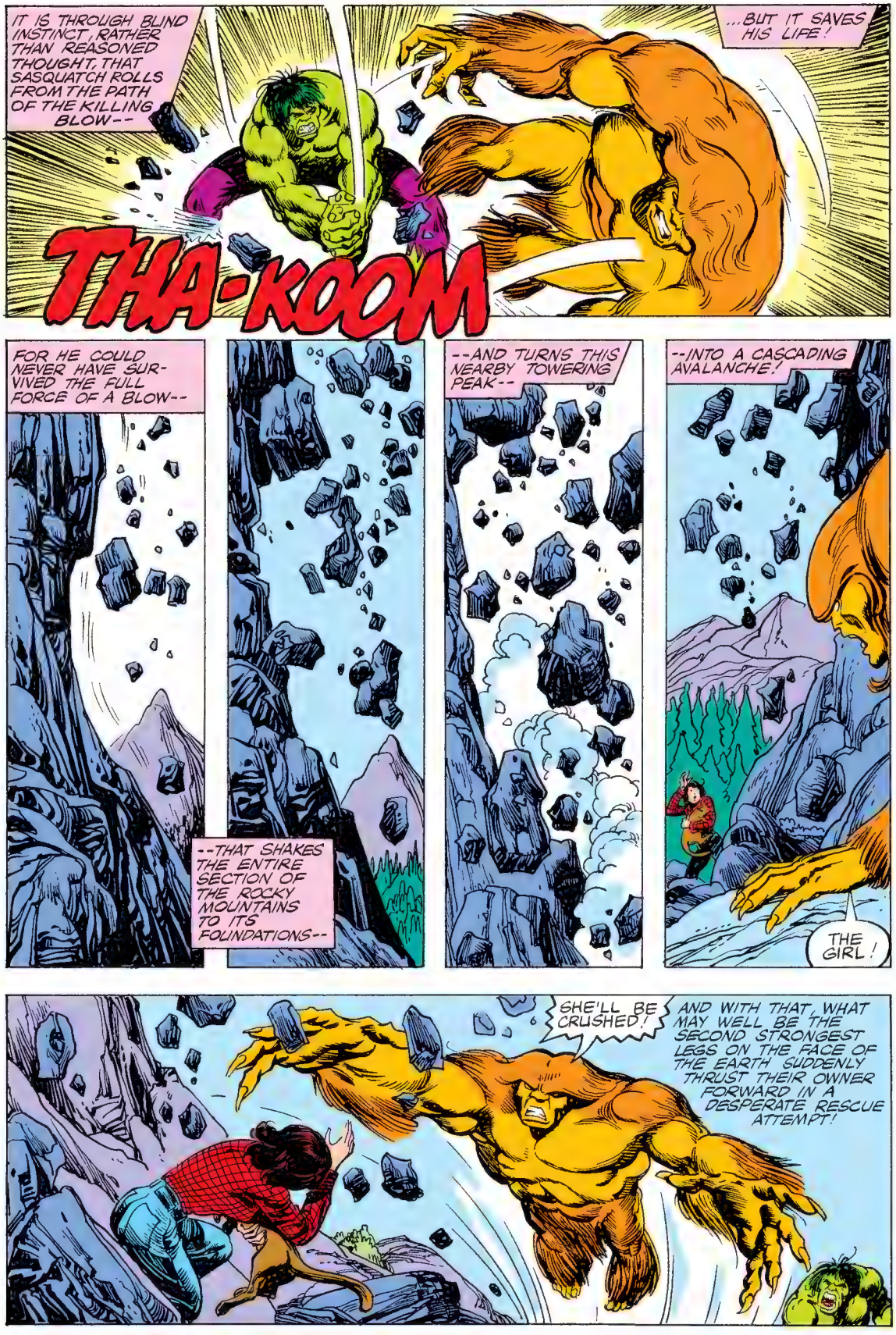

ACCORDING TO THE STORY, PAUL AND BABE ONCE GOT INTO A PLAYFUL FREE-FOR-ALL AND KICKED UP SUCH A FUSS THAT THEY CREATED THE NORTHERN LIGHTS!


AND WHILE THIS BATTLE IS ANYTHING BUT PLAYFUL, ANYONE WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF THE PRESENT CLASH MIGHT WELL REMEMBER THAT. LEGEND...
...AND WONDER IF IT MIGHT BE TRUE!


SASQUATCH IS NOT THINKING OF LEGENDS, HOWEVER.

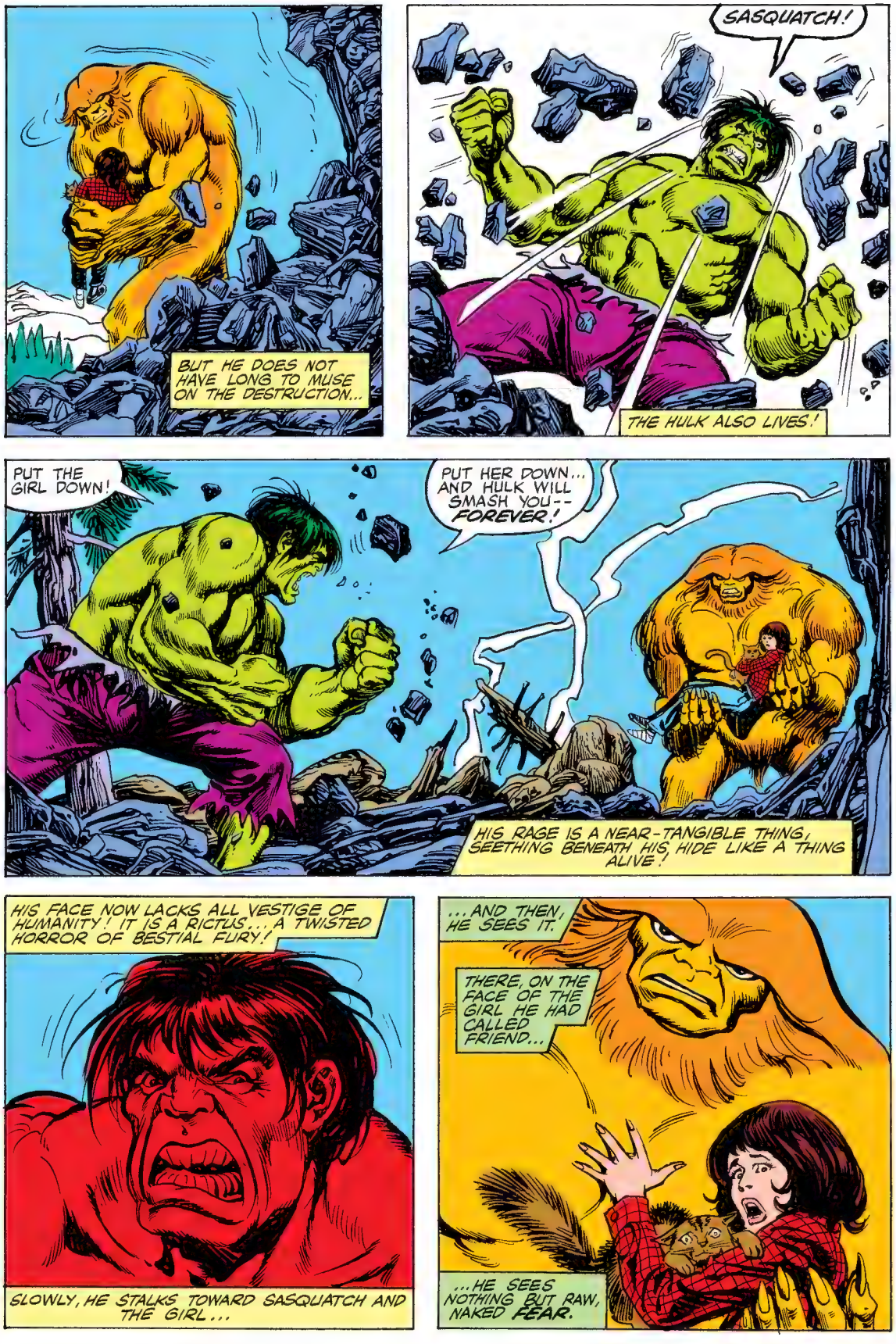

AT THIS MOMENT, HE CAN HARDLY THINK AT ALL!
NOW THE FIGHT IS OVER, SASQUATCH!
HULK HAS ENDED THE FIGHT...

...AND NOW HULK ENDS YOU!

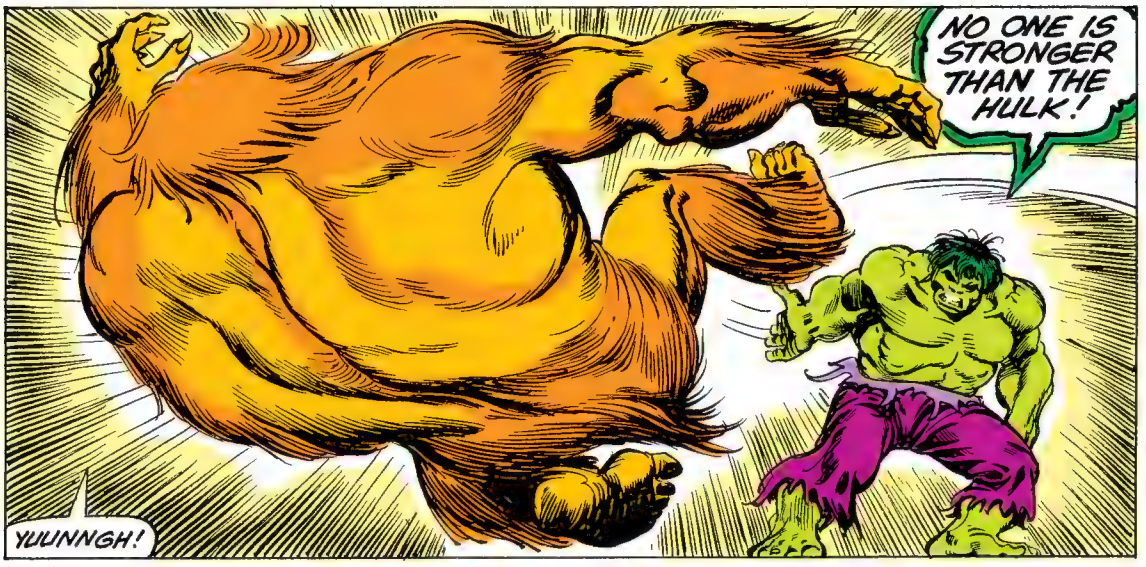

IT IS THROUGH BLIND INSTINCT, RATHER THAN REASONED THOUGHT, THAT SASQUATCH ROLLS FROM THE PATH OF THE KILLING BLOW--
...BUT IT SAVES HIS LIFE!
THA-KOOM
FOR HE COULD NEVER HAVE SURVIVED THE FULL FORCE OF A BLOW--
--THAT SHAKES THE ENTIRE SECTION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS TO ITS FOUNDATIONS--
--AND TURNS THIS NEARBY TOWERING PEAK--
--INTO A CASCADING AVALANCHE!
THE GIRL!
SHE'LL BE CRUSHED!
AND WITH THAT, WHAT MAY WELL BE THE SECOND STRONGEST LEGS ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH SUDDENLY THRUST THEIR OWNER FORWARD IN A DESPERATE RESCUE ATTEMPT!

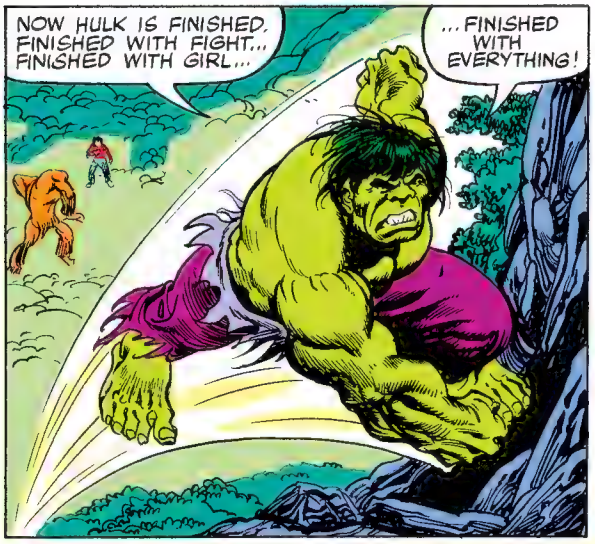
BUT HIS PURPOSE IS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR TO THE MUDDLED MIND OF THE HULK...
SASQUATCH? LEAPS AT GIRL?!
AND WHETHER THE RAGING BEHEMOTH LEAPS IN PURSUIT OF SASQUATCH OR TO SAVE MORES IS A MOOT POINT.
BUT LEAP HE DOES...
...RIGHT INTO THE PATH OF SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS...
...OF PLUM-METING, GRINDING, CRUSHING ROCK!
FOR HALF AN HOUR, THE AWFUL ROAR ECHOES ACROSS THE ROCKIES... TO BE REPLACED ONLY BY AN EERIE QUIET!

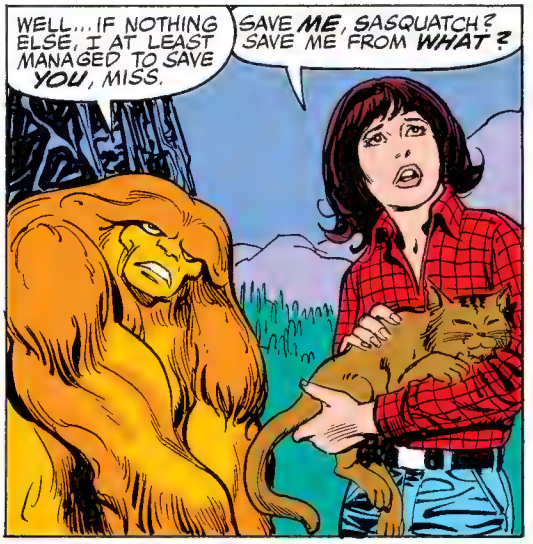
FOR LONG, LONG MOMENTS, ALL IS SILENT.
THEN...SLOWLY, PAINFULLY... A CLUMP OF OF ORANGE FUR POKES THROUGH THE STONE.
SASQUATCH LIVES!
AND SO, IT WOULD SEEM, DOES THE GIRL.
TAKE IT EASY, MISS. IT'S ALL OVER NOW... EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT.
A-ALL RIGHT? BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE HULK?
WHAT ABOUT THE HULK? THE CLATTER OF SHIFTING, SETTLING STONES IS HER ONLY ANSWER.
SASQUATCH TURNS, RUBY EYES MOVING SLOWLY BENEATH HIS HEAVY BROWS AS HE SURVEYS...
...THIS! STRETCHED OUT IN THE TWILIGHT ARE THE CADAVEROUS REMAINS OF WHAT, NOT HALF AN HOUR BEFORE, HAD BEEN PEACEFUL, PRIMEVAL FOREST.
WALTER LANGKOWSKI KNOWS THAT THIS IS MORE HIS FAULT THAN IT IS THE HULK'S.
AND THAT KNOWLEDGE SICKENS HIM.

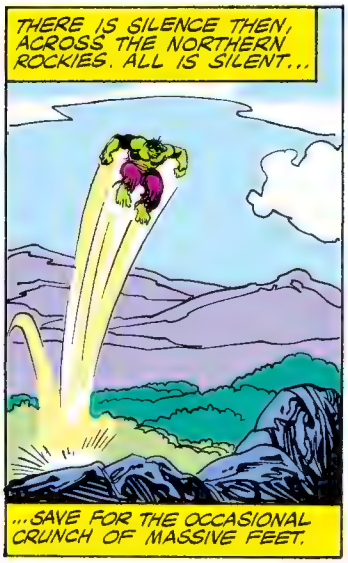

BUT HE DOES NOT HAVE LONG TO MUSE ON THE DESTRUCTION...
SASQUATCH!
THE HULK ALSO LIVES!
PUT THE GIRL DOWN!
PUT HER DOWN... AND HULK WILL SMASH YOU-- FOREVER!
HIS RAGE IS A NEAR-TANGIBLE THING, SEETHING BENEATH HIS HIDE LIKE A THING ALIVE!
HIS FACE NOW LACKS ALL VESTIGE OF HUMANITY! IT IS A RICTUS... A TWISTED HORROR OF BESTIAL FURY!
SLOWLY, HE STALKS TOWARD SASQUATCH AND THE GIRL...
...AND THEN, HE SEES IT.
THERE, ON THE FACE OF THE GIRL HE HAD CALLED FRIEND...
...HE SEES NOTHING BUT RAW, NAKED FEAR.

AND SOMEHOW, EVEN THROUGH HIS BLINDING, SEARING RAGE, THE HULK KNOWS WHAT HAS CAUSED THAT FEAR.
ALL RIGHT, HULK. THIS HAS ALREADY GONE FURTHER THAN I'D PLANNED...
... BUT IF YOU WANT ME, HERE I AM.
JUST PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T HARM THE GIRL!
HULK?
BAH! HULK IS FINISHED!
WHAT? BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
WHAT IS TO UNDER-STAND?
PLEASE, HULK...I-I'M SORRY. I...
SORRY? YOU ARE SORRY?! YOU TRIED TO HURT HULK... MAYBE TRIED TO KILL HIM!
AND WHY? BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE STRONG?
BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE STRONGER THAN THE HULK? WELL, YOU WERE WRONG... WRONG!


NO ONE IS STRONGER THAN THE HULK!
YUUNNGH!


NOW HULK IS FINISHED. FINISHED WITH FIGHT... FINISHED WITH GIRL...
...FINISHED WITH EVERYTHING!


WELL... IF NOTHING ELSE, I AT LEAST MANAGED TO SAVE YOU, MISS.
SAVE ME, SASQUATCH? SAVE ME FROM WHAT?


THERE IS SILENCE THEN, ACROSS THE NORTHERN ROCKIES. ALL IS SILENT...
...SAVE FOR THE OCCASIONAL CRUNCH OF MASSIVE FEET.

SILENCE IS ALL THE HULK WANTS NOW. FOR TONIGHT HE LOOKED INTO A GIRL'S FACE, AND SAW ONLY FEAR...

...FEAR THAT DROVE A FRIEND AWAY...
...A LIVING FEAR CALLED... THE HULK.
FIN

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

WELL, MR. PRESIDENT... GOVERNOR BROWN... I GUESS THIS IS THE WORST OF IT.'
WORST IS RIGHT! I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE HULK'S DESTRUCTIVE POWER FOR YEARS, BUT NEVER IN MY WILDEST NIGHTMARES--!
I'M AFRAID HIS POWAH IS FAR BEYOND THE LIMITS OF OUAH IMAGINA-TIONS.
LG457

POST HULK...POST HOLOCAUST!

YESTERDAY, CENTRAL CITY WAS A GLEAMING, MODERN MONUMENT TO TWENTIETH CENTURY MAN'S TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENGINEERING KNOW-HOW.

THEN, THE HULK CAME TO TOWN, LURED BY A SCHEME OF THE CRIMINAL **CORPORATION***... A SCHEME THAT BACKFIRED...

...QUITE HORRIBLY.

IT'S JUST A MIRACLE THAT NO ONE WAS KILLED.

GOVERNOR, AH AM APPALLED BY THIS WANTON DESTRUCTION... AND AH PROMISE YOU THAT THIS CAN NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

ROGER STERN, WRITER
SAL BUSCEMA and JACK ABEL, ARTISTS
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
GLYNIS WEIN, COLORIST
ALLEN MILGROM, EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER, ED.-IN-CHIEF

*HULK #234-237--AL.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAVE SOME STRONG SUGGESTIONS ALONG THOSE LINES.

REALLY, SENATOR HAWK?

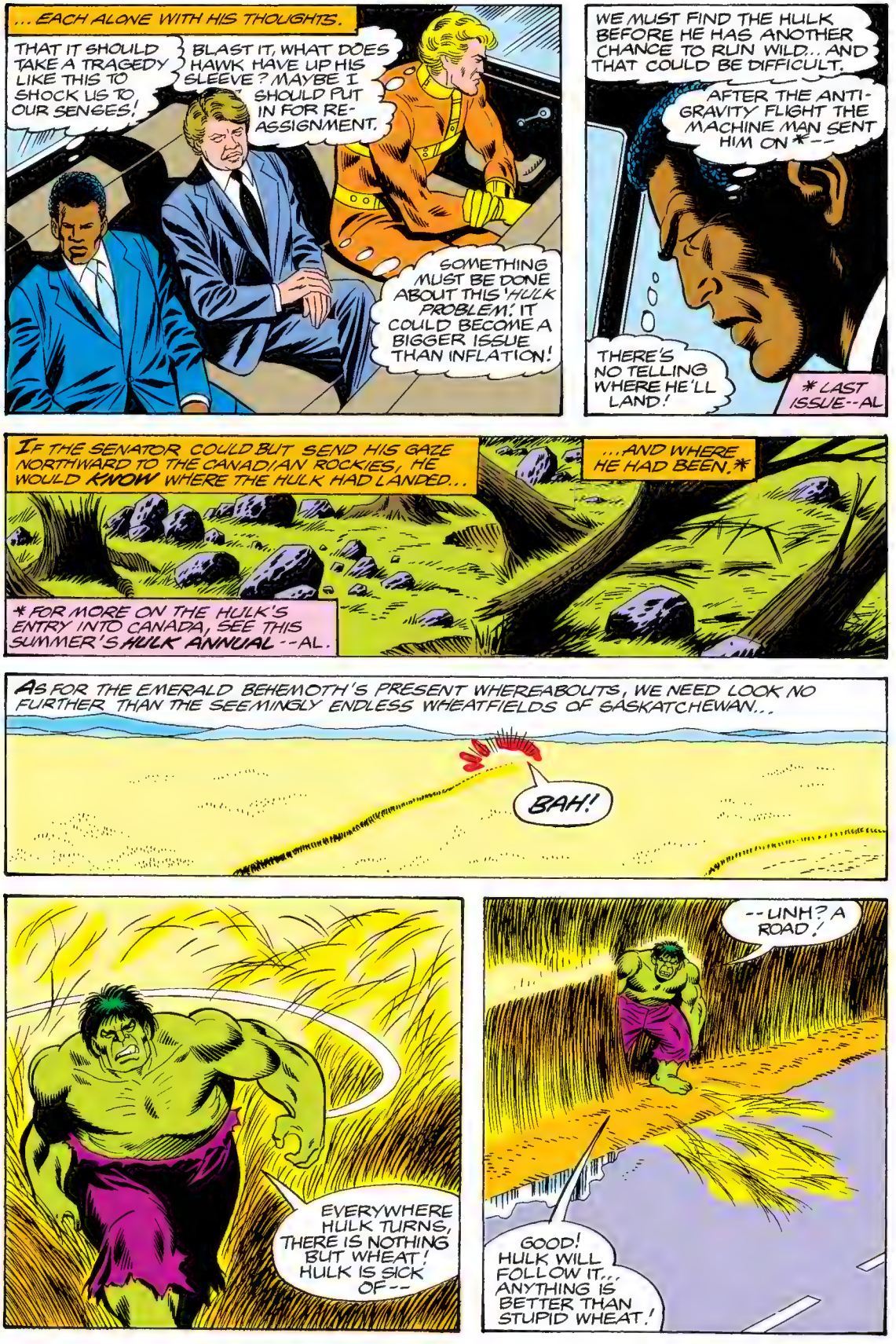
AH ASSUME THIS WOULD BE IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF **GAMMA BASE?** VERY WELL, IF YOU AND AGENT QUARTERMAIN WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO ACCOMPANY ME TO AIR FORCE ONE--

WE'LL DISCUSS THIS FURTHAH IN WASHINGTON.

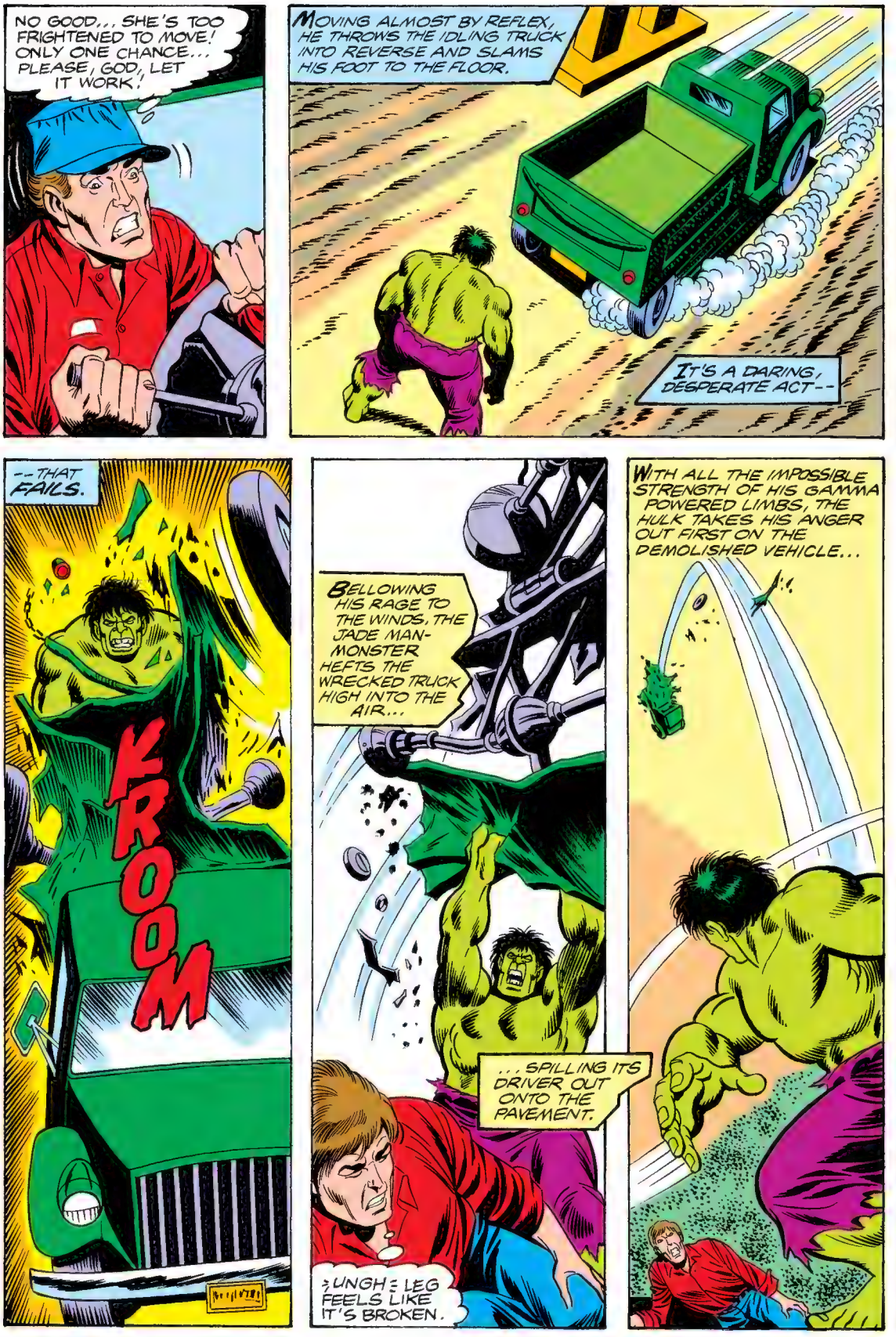
GOVERNOR... AH'LL BE IN TOUCH.

I'M SURE OF THAT, SIR!

THROUGH BATTERED, BARREN STREETS, THE PRESIDENTAL LIMO SPEEDS TO AN ARMY AIRSTRIP ON THE RUINED CITY'S PERIMETER, BEARING ITS THREE SILENT PASSENGERS...


... EACH ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS.
THAT IT SHOULD TAKE A TRAGEDY LIKE THIS TO SHOCK US TO OUR SENSES!
BLAST IT, WHAT DOES HAWK HAVE UP HIS SLEEVE? MAYBE I SHOULD PUT IN FOR RE-ASSIGNMENT.
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT THIS 'HULK PROBLEM.' IT COULD BECOME A BIGGER ISSUE THAN INFLATION!
WE MUST FIND THE HULK BEFORE HE HAS ANOTHER CHANCE TO RUN WILD... AND THAT COULD BE DIFFICULT.
AFTER THE ANTI-GRAVITY FLIGHT THE MACHINE MAN SENT HIM ON *--
THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE HE'LL LAND!
* LAST ISSUE--AL
IF THE SENATOR COULD BUT SEND HIS GAZE NORTHWARD TO THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, HE WOULD KNOW WHERE THE HULK HAD LANDED...
...AND WHERE HE HAD BEEN.*
* FOR MORE ON THE HULK'S ENTRY INTO CANADA, SEE THIS SUMMER'S HULK ANNUAL --AL.
AS FOR THE EMERALD BEHEMOTH'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS, WE NEED LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS WHEATFIELDS OF SASKATCHEWAN...
BAH!
EVERYWHERE HULK TURNS, THERE IS NOTHING BUT WHEAT! HULK IS SICK OF--
--UNH? A ROAD!
GOOD! HULK WILL FOLLOW IT... ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN STUPID WHEAT!

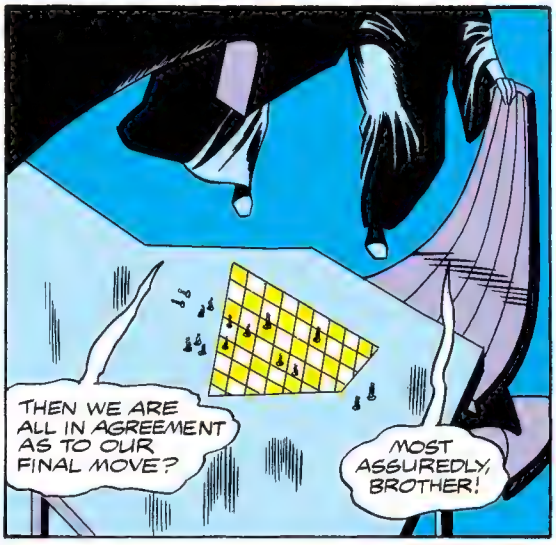
THE ISOLATED ASPHALT STRIP STRETCHES ON FOR MILES, LEADING THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH FINALLY TO A SMALL STAND OF TREES... AND AN EVEN SMALLER COUNTRY STORE.
QUIK-SERV
BEEP BEEP
HEY, C'MON, BRIDGET! YOUR MOM'LL BE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO US!
I'M COMING, POP! JUST ONE MORE BOX TO GO!
MR. McCONNEL SAID HE JUST GOT SOME POPSICLES IN... THE ROOT BEER KIND! DO YA 'SPOSE ...I COULD...
POPPA!!
BRIDGET? WHAT'S WRONG WITH...
BRIDGET'S FATHER IS A TOUGH MAN, A STRONG MAN WHO HAS SEEN HARD TIMES AND ROUGH WINTERS. HE DOES NOT SCARE EASILY.
BUT THE FACE THAT STARES BACK AT HIM FROM HIS SIDE MIRROR CHILLS HIM TO THE VERY CORE OF HIS SOUL!
POPPA... POPPA... HELP...
BRIDGET... G-GET IN THE TRUCK... HURRY!

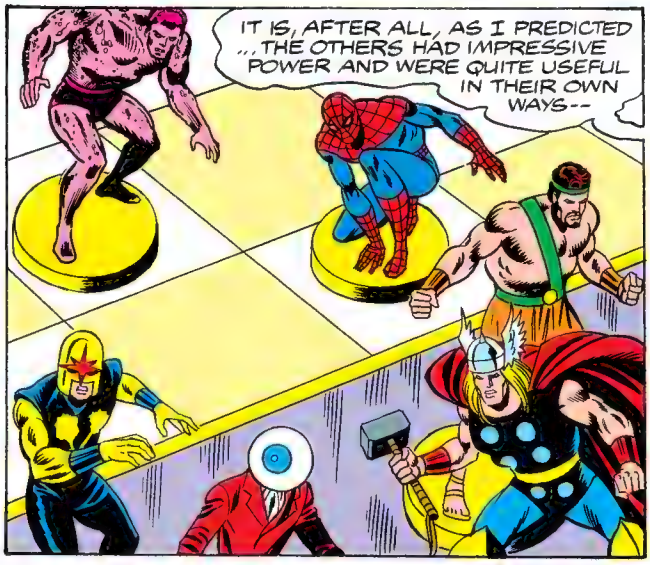

NO GOOD... SHE'S TOO FRIGHTENED TO MOVE! ONLY ONE CHANCE... PLEASE, GOD, LET IT WORK.
MOVING ALMOST BY REFLEX, HE THROWS THE IDLING TRUCK INTO REVERSE AND SLAMS HIS FOOT TO THE FLOOR.
IT'S A DARING, DESPERATE ACT--
--THAT FAILS.
KROOM
BELLOWING HIS RAGE TO THE WINDS, THE JADE MAN-MONSTER HEFTS THE WRECKED TRUCK HIGH INTO THE AIR...
...SPILLING ITS DRIVER OUT ONTO THE PAVEMENT.
=UNGH= LEG FEELS LIKE IT'S BROKEN.
WITH ALL THE IMPOSSIBLE STRENGTH OF HIS GAMMA POWERED LIMBS, THE HULK TAKES HIS ANGER OUT FIRST ON THE DEMOLISHED VEHICLE...

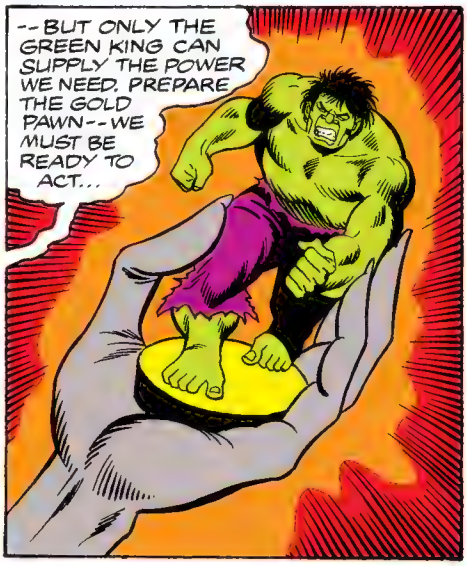
...AND THEN...
NOW YOU WILL LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO ATTACK THE HULK!
HULK WILL SMASH YOU INTO--!
NO! NO, YOU MUSTN'T!
I WON'T LET YOU HURT MY POPPA--I WON'T!
BRIDG... DON'T. RUN AWAY... HIDE.
I... I'M THE ONLY REASON POP TRIED TO RUN YA DOWN. HE DID IT 'CAUSE I WAS SCARED.
D-DON'T HURT HIM... PLEASE!
THE HULK PAUSES IN THIS MADDENED FRENZY, SOMETHING IN THE GIRL'S PLEA CUTTING THROUGH THE LAYERS OF HIS MUDDLED MIND...
...SOMETHING CALLED LOVE.
BAH! IT IS NOT WORTH HULK'S TIME TO SMASH YOU! HULK IS TIRED OF THIS PLACE ANYWAY!
AND LIKE AN ANGRY CHILD, THIS LIVING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION TURNS...
...HIM-SELF!
--AND LEAPS AWAY FROM FATHER AND DAUGHTER, TRYING ONCE AGAIN TO FLEE THE ONLY ENEMY HE CAN NEVER DEFEAT...

ELSEWHERE, IN A REMOTE, HIDDEN CHAMBER, THE EMERALD GIANT'S PROGRESS IS SECRETLY WATCHED...
OBSERVE, BROTHERS--THE SAVAGE HULK STILL ROAMS THE EARTH UNFETTERED!
OF COURSE! WE-WHO-ARE THEY DO NOT HAVE A MONOPOLY ON THE WIELDING OF POWER!

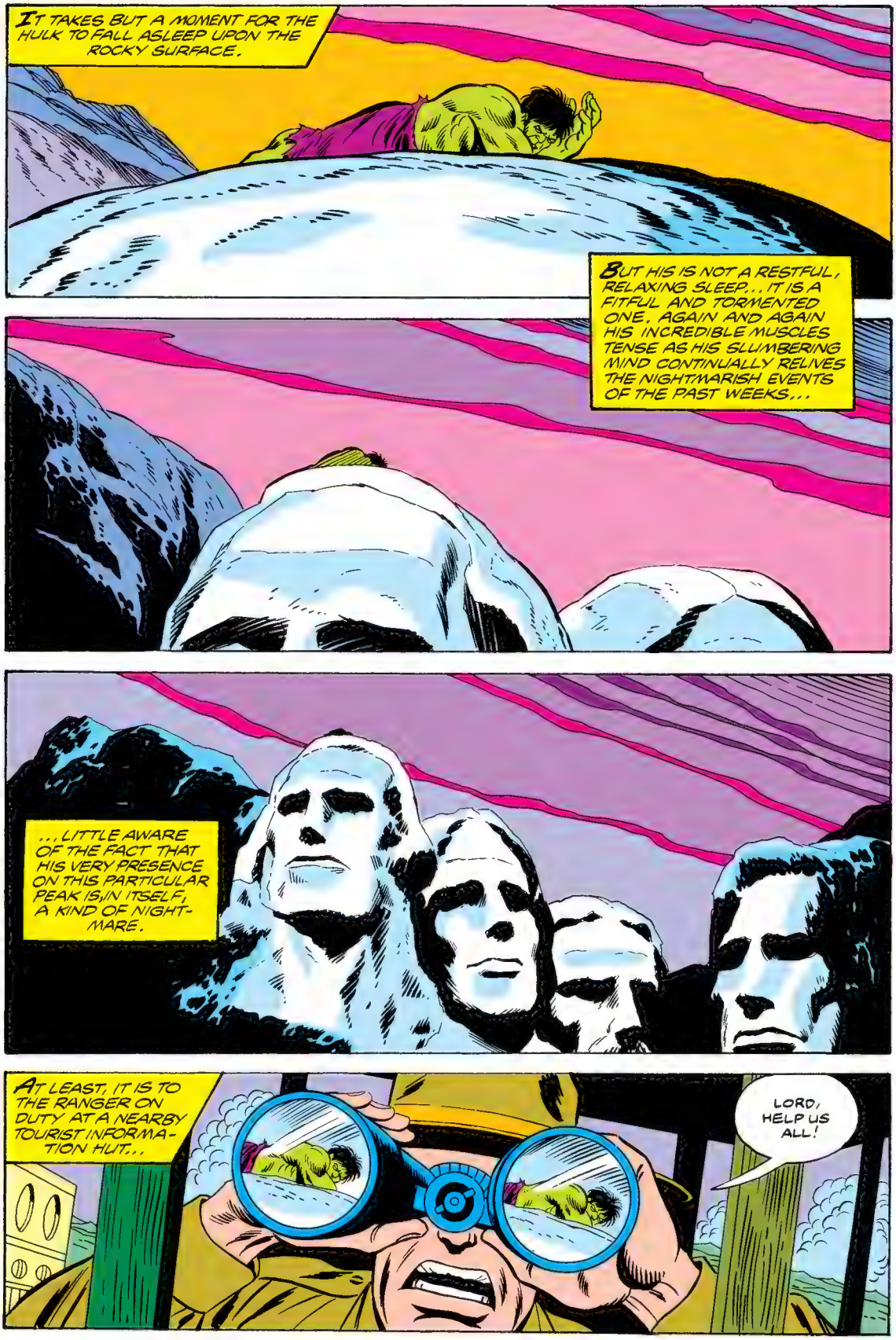
TOO TRUE. OF ALL OUR TEST CASES, THE HULK STILL REMAINS THE MIGHTIEST SUBJECT.
INDEED! THERE TRULY SEEMS TO BE NO LIMIT TO HIS GAMMA-SPAWNED POWER!

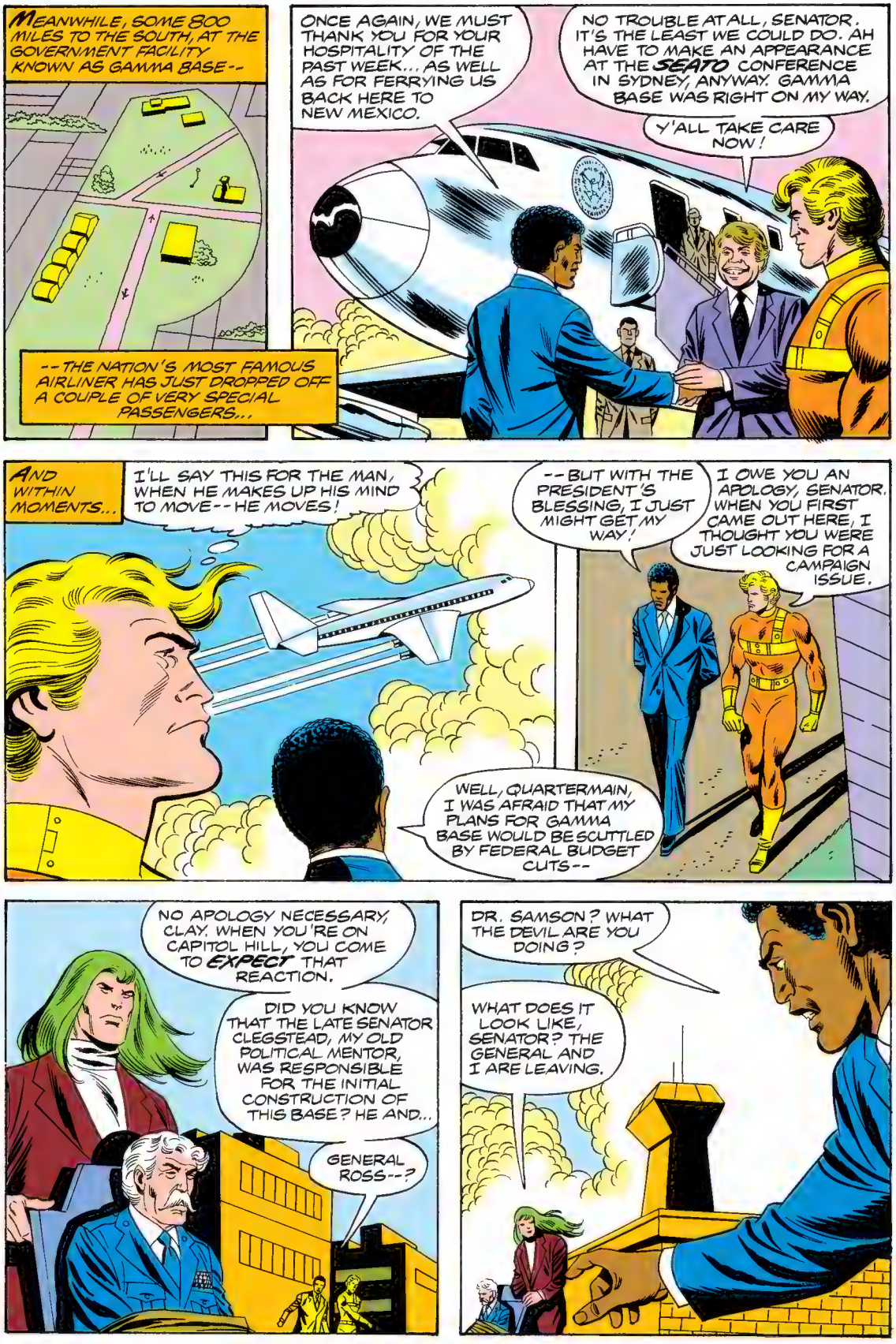

THEN WE ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT AS TO OUR FINAL MOVE?
MOST ASSUREDLY, BROTHER!

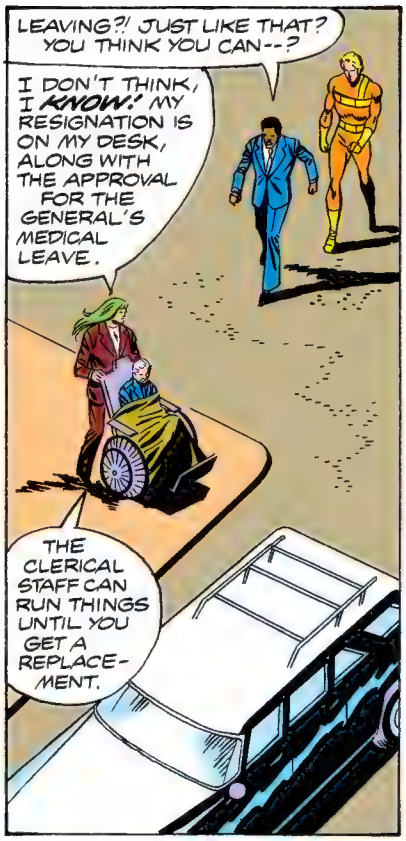

IT IS, AFTER ALL, AS I PREDICTED ...THE OTHERS HAD IMPRESSIVE POWER AND WERE QUITE USEFUL IN THEIR OWN WAYS--

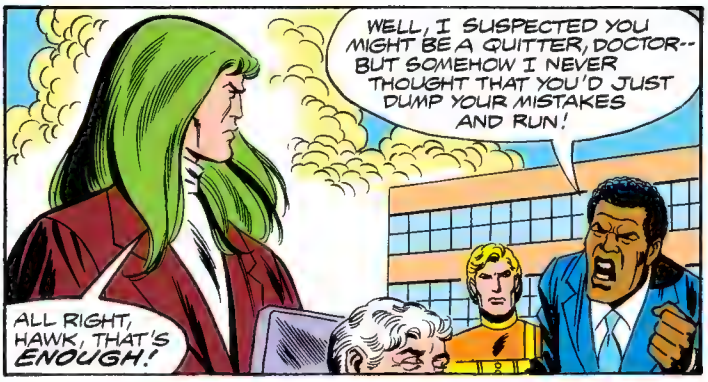

--BUT ONLY THE GREEN KING CAN SUPPLY THE POWER WE NEED. PREPARE THE GOLD PAWN--WE MUST BE READY TO ACT...

IN A WEEK'S TIME, THE HULK IS ABLE TO PUT HIS HURT AND SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES BEHIND HIM...
...HIS MIGHTY THEWS COVERING MILES WITH EACH AWESOME BOUND.
HUNH! SUN IS SETTING ALREADY... IT WILL BE DARK SOON.
HULK IS TIRED OF JUMPING. HULK WILL STOP HERE AND REST.
THE WIND IS COLD UP HERE, BUT THE COLD WILL NOT BOTHER THE HULK. BESIDES...
...THERE IS A GOOD VIEW HERE. IF ENEMIES COME FOR THE HULK, HULK WILL SEE THEM BEFORE THEY GET CLOSE...
...AND BE READY FOR THEM! YES, THIS IS A GOOD PLACE FOR HULK TO REST.

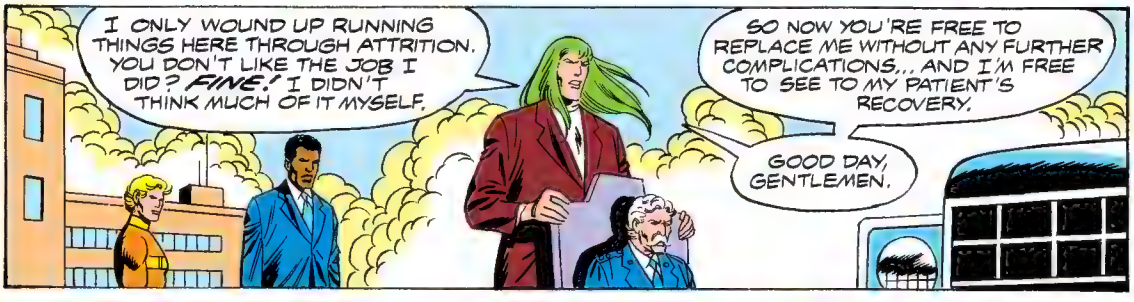

IT TAKES BUT A MOMENT FOR THE HULK TO FALL ASLEEP UPON THE ROCKY SURFACE.
BUT HIS IS NOT A RESTFUL, RELAXING SLEEP... IT IS A FITFUL AND TORMENTED ONE. AGAIN AND AGAIN HIS INCREDIBLE MUSCLES TENSE AS HIS SLUMBERING MIND CONTINUALLY RELIVES THE NIGHTMARISH EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEKS...
...LITTLE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT HIS VERY PRESENCE ON THIS PARTICULAR PEAK IS, IN ITSELF, A KIND OF NIGHTMARE.
AT LEAST, IT IS TO THE RANGER ON DUTY AT A NEARBY TOURIST INFORMATION HUT...
LORD, HELP US ALL!

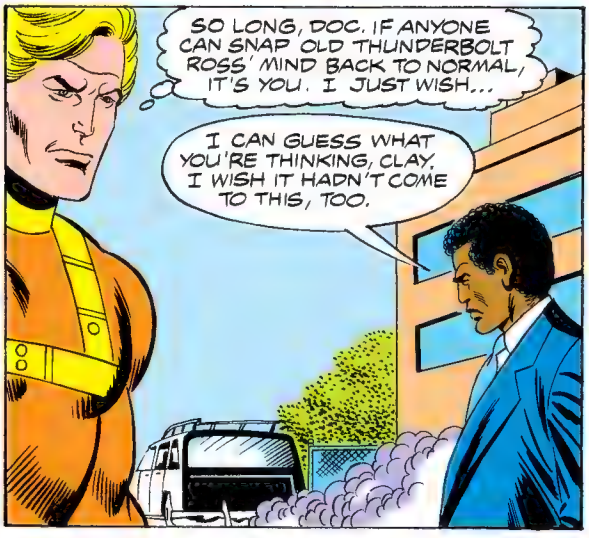

MEANWHILE, SOME 800 MILES TO THE SOUTH, AT THE GOVERNMENT FACILITY KNOWN AS GAMMA BASE--
--THE NATION'S MOST FAMOUS AIRLINER HAS JUST DROPPED OFF A COUPLE OF VERY SPECIAL PASSENGERS...
ONCE AGAIN, WE MUST THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY OF THE PAST WEEK... AS WELL AS FOR FERRYING US BACK HERE TO NEW MEXICO.
NO TROUBLE AT ALL, SENATOR. IT'S THE LEAST WE COULD DO. AH HAVE TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT THE SEATO CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY, ANYWAY. GAMMA BASE WAS RIGHT ON MY WAY.
Y'ALL TAKE CARE NOW!
AND WITHIN MOMENTS...
I'LL SAY THIS FOR THE MAN, WHEN HE MAKES UP HIS MIND TO MOVE--HE MOVES!
--BUT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S BLESSING, I JUST MIGHT GET MY WAY!
I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY, SENATOR. WHEN YOU FIRST CAME OUT HERE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST LOOKING FOR A CAMPAIGN ISSUE.
WELL, QUARTERMAIN, I WAS AFRAID THAT MY PLANS FOR GAMMA BASE WOULD BE SCUTTLED BY FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS--
NO APOLOGY NECESSARY, CLAY. WHEN YOU'RE ON CAPITOL HILL, YOU COME TO EXPECT THAT REACTION.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE LATE SENATOR CLEGSTEAD, MY OLD POLITICAL MENTOR, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INITIAL CONSTRUCTION OF THIS BASE? HE AND...
GENERAL ROSS--?
DR. SAMSON? WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE, SENATOR? THE GENERAL AND I ARE LEAVING.

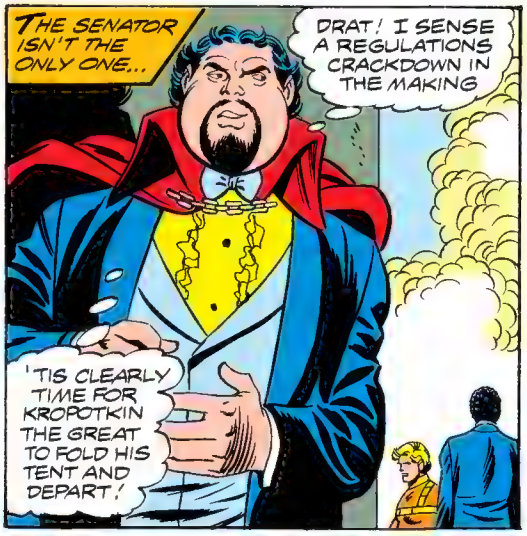

LEAVING?! JUST LIKE THAT? YOU THINK YOU CAN--?
I DON'T THINK, I KNOW! MY RESIGNATION IS ON MY DESK, ALONG WITH THE APPROVAL FOR THE GENERAL'S MEDICAL LEAVE.
THE CLERICAL STAFF CAN RUN THINGS UNTIL YOU GET A REPLACE-MENT.


WELL, I SUSPECTED YOU MIGHT BE A QUITTER, DOCTOR-- BUT SOMEHOW I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU'D JUST DUMP YOUR MISTAKES AND RUN!
ALL RIGHT, HAWK, THAT'S ENOUGH!

LET'S GET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT! I SIGNED ON HERE TO HANDLE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. I'M NOT AN ADMINISTRATOR -- I NEVER CLAIMED TO BE. I TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE.


I ONLY WOUND UP RUNNING THINGS HERE THROUGH ATTRITION. YOU DON'T LIKE THE JOB I DID? FINE! I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF IT MYSELF.
SO NOW YOU'RE FREE TO REPLACE ME WITHOUT ANY FURTHER COMPLICATIONS,,, AND I'M FREE TO SEE TO MY PATIENT'S RECOVERY.
GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN.


SO LONG, DOC. IF ANYONE CAN SNAP OLD THUNDERBOLT ROSS' MIND BACK TO NORMAL, IT'S YOU. I JUST WISH...
I CAN GUESS WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, CLAY. I WISH IT HADN'T COME TO THIS, TOO.


THE SENATOR ISN'T THE ONLY ONE...
DRAT! I SENSE A REGULATIONS CRACKDOWN IN THE MAKING
'TIS CLEARLY TIME FOR KROPOTKIN THE GREAT TO FOLD HIS TENT AND DEPART!

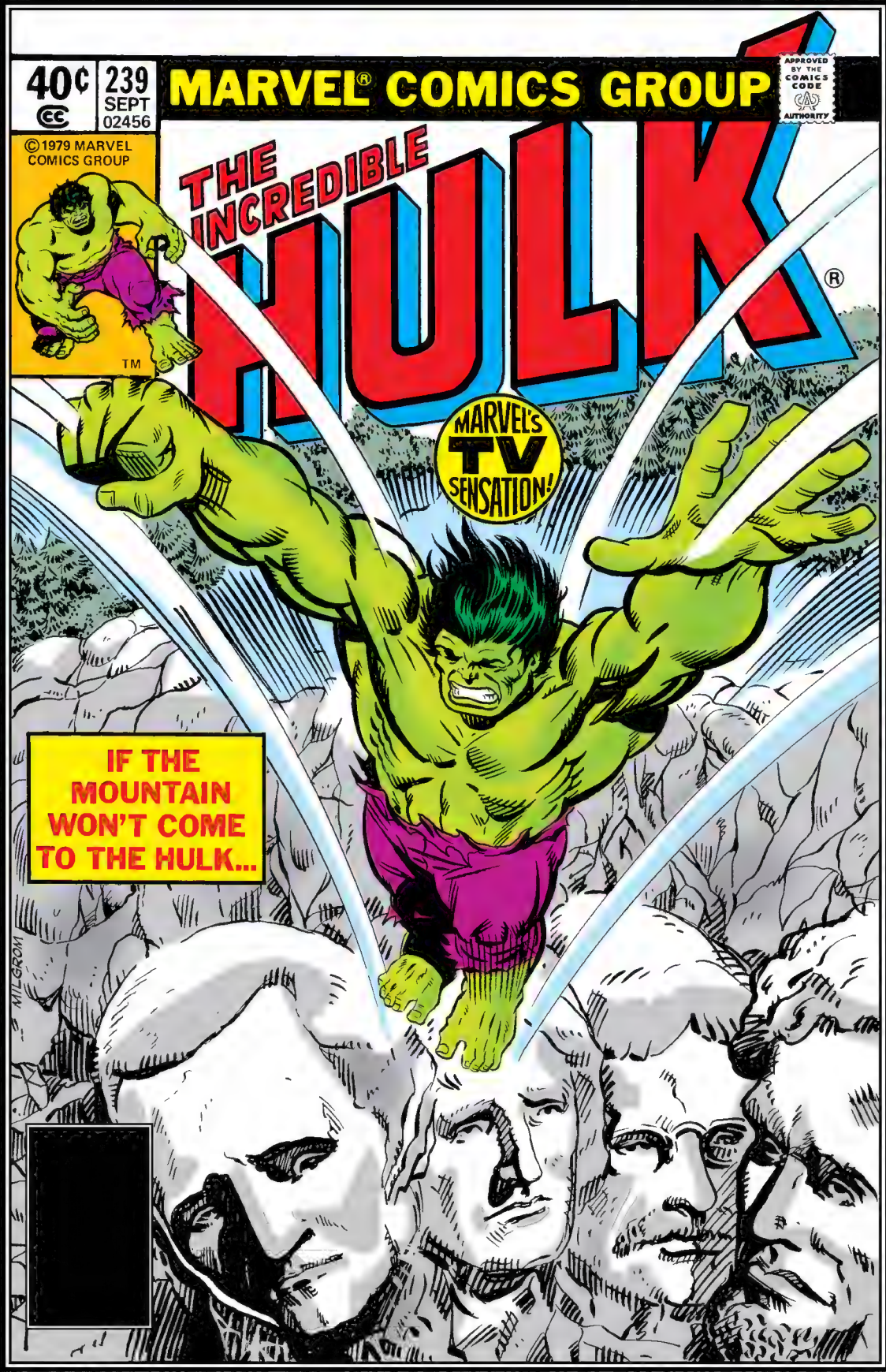
AND, EVEN AS KROPOTKIN TAKES HIS LEAVE...
SENATOR! MR. QUARTERMAIN! COME QUICK! WE'VE GOT US A REAL EMERGENCY! THE HULK'S BEEN SIGHTED--
--APPARENTLY ASLEEP HIGH ATOP MOUNT RUSHMORE!
NBC NIGHT NEWS
RANGERS HAVE SEALED OFF THE GROUNDS OF THE NATIONAL LANDMARK, AND SPOKESMEN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ARE REPORTEDLY...
EVENING, TINKERER.
WELCOME BACK TO BROOKLYN, MR. SMITH I TAKE IT YOU HAVE YOUR FINANCES IN ORDER?
I WOULDN'T RISK BEING HERE OTHERWISE. I HAVE YOUR FEE WITH ME.
IN THE BAG, EH? SPLENDID.
JUST LOCK THE FRONT DOOR BEHIND YOU AND FOLLOW ME...
...WE'LL BE DOWN TO BUSINESS BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
THEN MY NEW BUG-SHIP--?
ALL REVVED UP AND RARING TO GO...

...AND IT'S QUITE A PIECE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
YES, IT'S EVERYTHING MY OLD SHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN!
BUT YOU, TINKERER-- YOU SURPRISE ME!
I MEAN, YOU HAVE QUITE A REP AS AN UNDER-WORLD MR. FIX-IT*--
--BUT YOU'RE GETTING TOO OLD, TOO TRUSTING! WHAT'S TO STOP ME FROM JUST TAKING THE BUG WITHOUT PAYING?
OH, TOY!
*SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #183--AL.
YES, SIR?
YOUR OWN PRIVATE MUSCLE, EH? I DIDN'T MISJUDGE YOU AFTER ALL!
HERE--I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT THIS COVERS YOUR FEE.
OOF! THIS CASE WEIGHS A TON! WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN HERE... BRICKS?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
GLORY BE! SOLID GOLD BULLION!
NATURALLY...

...HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPECT TO BE PAID BY THE GOLDBUG!
I JUST HOPE YOU FOLLOWED MY DESIGNS CAREFULLY WHEN YOU OUT-FITTED THE BUG-SHIP!
IT'S ALL THERE -- MAGNA-DRIVE ENGINES, VORTEX BEAMS, SENSORS, THE WORKS! PRETTY ADVANCED STUFF.
WHERE DID YOU EVER COME UP WITH THOSE CIRCUITRY CONCEPTS? AND WHAT ARE YOU USING FOR A POWER SOURCE? THE BUG'S FUEL CELLS ARE ONLY GOOD FOR A FEW HOURS.
THE CIRCUITRY? OH, IT... JUST SORT OF CAME TO ME. AND AS FOR A POWER SOURCE...
...LET'S JUST SAY I HAVE ACCESS TO A GOOD ONE.
DIDN'T MEAN TO PRY, SON... JUST PROFESSIONAL CURIOUSITY, YOU KNOW. WELL... GOOD FLYING!
WITHIN MINUTES, THE GOLDBUG IS ZOOMING WEST OUT OF THE NEW YORK METROPLEX, PAST THE JERSEY MEADOWS...
...FLYING ON WAVES OF MAGNETIC FORCE.
THE TINERER'S ALMOST AS GREAT A GENIUS AS THEY! BY CONSERVING FUEL, I SHOULD REACH THE DAKOTAS ABOUT DAWN.
AND THAT'LL GIVE ME PLENTY OF TIME TO BONE UP ON THE HABITS AND FOIBLES OF MY FUTURE 'POWER SOURCE'.
HULK
HA HA HA HA HA

FINALLY, AS DUSK STREAKS THE SKIES OF MEXICO CITY..
I AM SORRY, MIS AMIGOS, THAT THIS HAS TAKEN SO LONG.
IP. SANCHEZ
JUEZ SALA DE JUSTICA
IT USED TO BE SO SIMPLE-- BUT THE BUREAUCRACY.. YOU KNOW. ANYWAY AS OF THIS SIGNING, YOUR DIVORCE IS NOW FINAL.
DIVORCE... THE PRONOUNCEMENT SEEMS TO LOWER A MONSTROUS WEIGHT UPON THE SHOULDERS OF MAJOR GLENN TALBOT..
GLENN, I...
I'LL... BE ALL RIGHT, BETTY. THE FINAL JUDGEMENT JUST... TAKES A LITTLE GETTING USED TO.
I MUST CONGRATULATE YOU BOTH FOR BEING SO CIVIL ABOUT THE PROCEDURES, YOU ESPECIALLY, MRS. TAL... AH... MS. ROSS... CONSIDERING YOUR FATHER'S CONDITION.
FATHER? WHAT ABOUT MY FATHER?
OH, I'M SORRY... I THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN THE PAPERS.
DAILY
THUNDERBOLT ROSS SUFFERS BREAKDOWN
NO, I... HADN'T.
YOU... YOU MUST... EXCUSE ME!
BETTY, WAIT! LET ME HELP!
BUT BETTY ROSS DOES NOT EVEN HEAR HER FORMER HUSBAND. HER MIND IS ALREADY MILES AWAY.

I... I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, SANCHEZ. I... GUESS OURS WAS A MARRIAGE THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN.
I DON'T THINK BETTY EVER TRULY LOVED ME... NOT LIKE SHE HAD LOVED BRUCE BANNER.
YES, BANNER WAS THE ONE WHO RUINED MY MARRIAGE... BANNER AND THE HULK! FUNNY, ISN'T IT? I OWE THEM BOTH MY LIFE. *
I HAVE THEM TO THANK FOR THIS...
*AS SEEN IN HULK #200--AL.
... A LIFE OF LONELINESS AND WASTED MEMORIES. I'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF DEAD!
SENOR SANCHEZ TAKES TALBOT'S OUTBURST IN STRIDE, THINKING IT THE RAVINGS OF A DISTRAUGHT NEWLY-DIVORCED MAN.
BUT GLENN TALBOT'S ANGUISH GOES MUCH DEEPER THAN THAT. IT BURNS AND FESTERS IN HIM LIKE SOME VILE MALIGNANCY.. GROWING AND BUILDING INTO DEEP-SEEDED HATRED..
... A HATRED THAT THREATENS TO ENGULF THE HULK AND ALL THOSE AROUND HIM... A HATRED THAT MUST ERUPT...
...AND SOON!
NEXT
THE BEGINNING OF THE LONG-AWAITED
SECRET OF THEY!
SIX YEARS IN THE MAKING!!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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
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IF THE MOUNTAIN WON'T COME TO THE HULK...
MILGROM

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

ALL THAT GLITTERS...

EVEN THE MIGHTIEST OF MORTAL BEINGS EVENTUALLY GROWS WEARY. SUCH IS THE CASE WITH THE EVER-INCREDIBLE HULK, WHO HAS CHOSEN A CERTAIN MOUNTAINTOP IN THE DAKOTAS AS HIS PLACE OF SLUMBER.

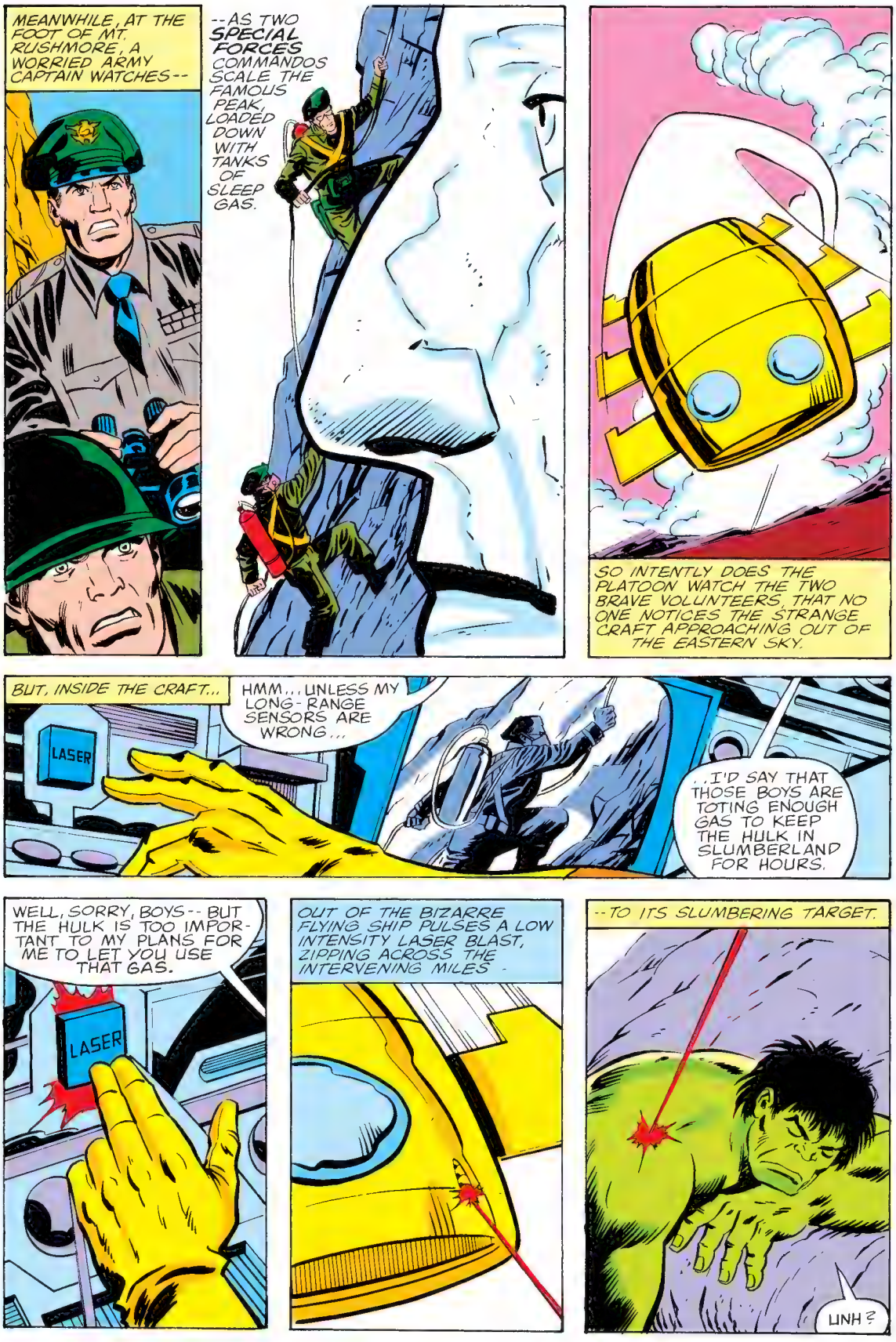
A ROGER STERN· SAL BUSCEMA MARVEL MASTERWORK MIKE ESPOSITO, EMBELLISHER JIM NOVAK, LETTERER NEL YOMTOV, COLORIST ALLEN MILGROM-EDITOR JIM SHOOTER-ED-IN-CHIEF

AND THEREIN LIES THE NIGHTMARE...

LG486

... FOR A HASTILY ASSEMBLED PLATOON OF SOLDIERS FROM FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.
WHY, OF ALL THE MOUNTAINS IN THE BLACK HILLS, DID THE HULK HAVE TO FALL ASLEEP ON MOUNT RUSHMORE?
THIS WAITING GAME IS DRIVING ME CRAZY... BUT THERE'S LITTLE WE CAN DO UNTIL THE EXPERTS SHOW. I CAN'T LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON A NATIONAL LANDMARK!
SIR! INCOMING MESSAGE FROM THE HULKBUSTER ATTACK SQUAD!
IT'S ABOUT TIME! GIVE ME THAT HANDSET, SOLDIER!
YES, SIR!
QUARTERMAIN? WHERE THE DEVIL ARE YOU? IT'S DAYLIGHT ALREADY, AND IF THAT MONSTER SHOULD WAKE UP--!
I'M WELL AWARE OF THE DAMAGE HE CAN DO, CAP'N...
... AND I'M SORRY FOR THE DELAY, BUT WE'RE FINALLY AIRBORNE.
QUARTERMAIN
YOU CAN EXPECT US IN ABOUT TWENTY-SEVEN MINUTES!

I ONLY PRAY WE HAVE THAT MUCH TIME! I DON'T WANT TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOLDIER WHO LET THE HULK TEAR APART MOUNT RUSHMORE!
WELL... USE THE GAS, IF YOU THINK IT NECESSARY, AND AS FOR PRAYER...
... "IT COULDN'T HURT!" QUARTERMAIN OUT!
AND, AS FIVE SPECIALLY MODIFIED JET FIGHTERS ROAR NORTHWARD--
--THEIR PROGRESS IS CAREFULLY MONITORED IN THE RADAR ROOM OF NEW MEXICO'S GAMMA BASE...
THEY'RE CROSSING INTO COLORADO NOW, SENATOR HAWK.
IT'S TOO BAD YOU CHASED DR. SAMSON OFF, SENATOR. HE COULD HAVE PROBABLY TALKED THE HULK DOWN OFF THE MOUNTAIN!
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, DR. MAXWELL, I DID NOT CHASE LEONARD SAMSON OFF! HE WENT--!
LET ME GUESS... "OPENLY AND OF HIS OWN FREE WILL"? STILL, I'LL MISS THE DEAR BOY-- EVEN THOUGH HIS RESIGNATION DOES PUT ME IN CHARGE OF BASE RESEARCH!
FOR NOW, YOU HOLD THAT OFFICE, MAXWELL. WHEN THE JOINT CHIEFS PICK THE NEW MILITARY COMMANDER OF THIS BASE, HE WILL DECIDE WHO HOLDS WHAT POSITION!
UH-OH!


MEANWHILE, AT THE FOOT OF MT. RUSHMORE, A WORRIED ARMY CAPTAIN WATCHES--
--AS TWO SPECIAL FORCES COMMANDOS SCALE THE FAMOUS PEAK, LOADED DOWN WITH TANKS OF SLEEP GAS.
SO INTENTLY DOES THE PLATOON WATCH THE TWO BRAVE VOLUNTEERS, THAT NO ONE NOTICES THE STRANGE CRAFT APPROACHING OUT OF THE EASTERN SKY.
BUT, INSIDE THE CRAFT...
LASER
HMM... UNLESS MY LONG-RANGE SENSORS ARE WRONG...
..I'D SAY THAT THOSE BOYS ARE TOTING ENOUGH GAS TO KEEP THE HULK IN SLUMBERLAND FOR HOURS.
WELL, SORRY, BOYS -- BUT THE HULK IS TOO IMPORTANT TO MY PLANS FOR ME TO LET YOU USE THAT GAS.
LASER
OUT OF THE BIZARRE FLYING SHIP PULSES A LOW INTENSITY LASER BLAST, ZIPPING ACROSS THE INTERVENING MILES -
--TO ITS SLUMBERING TARGET.
UNH?

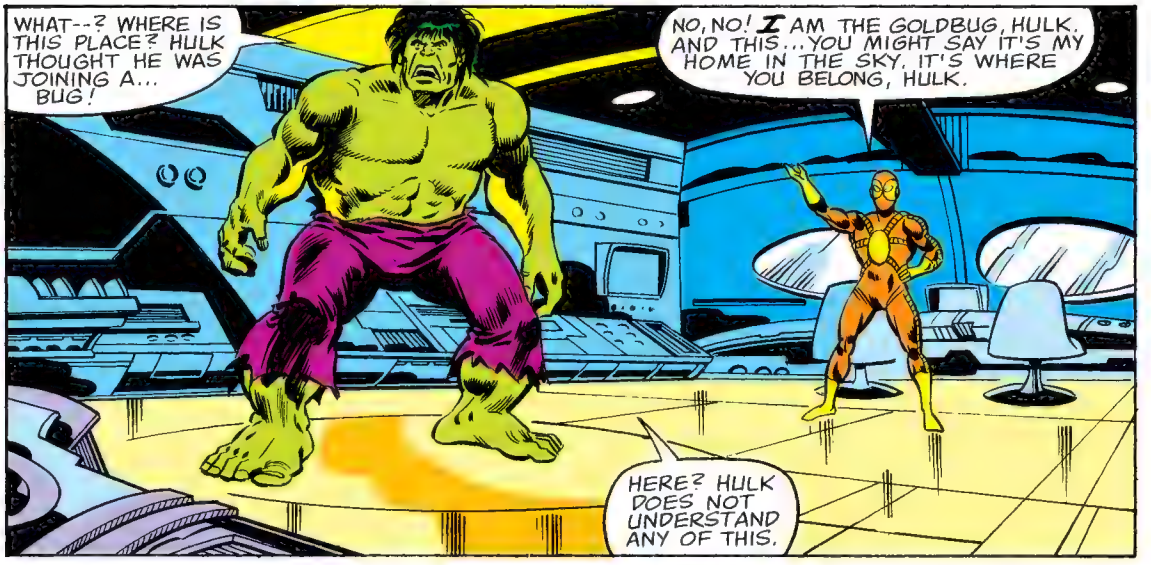
THE BEAM OF COHERENT LIGHT IS WEAK, BUT HAS THE DESIRED EFFECT...
...ITS STING AWAKENS THE HULK!
FOR A MOMENT, HIS TIRED EYES SEE NOTHING BUT THE BLURRED AFTER-IMAGES OF SLEEP. THEN THEY WIDEN AND FOCUS...
AND THE HULK DOESN'T LIKE WHAT HE SEES!
SOLDIERS!
EVEN HERE SOLDIERS FOLLOW THE HULK!
HULK JUST WANTED TO SLEEP BUT IF SOLDIERS WANT TO FIGHT, THEN THE HULK WILL GIVE THEM A FIGHT!
CAN YOU SEE HIM YET?
NOT YET. AND HOLD IT DOWN, WILL YA? IF HE WAKES UP, OUR GOOSE IS...
...COOKED.
OH, NO.

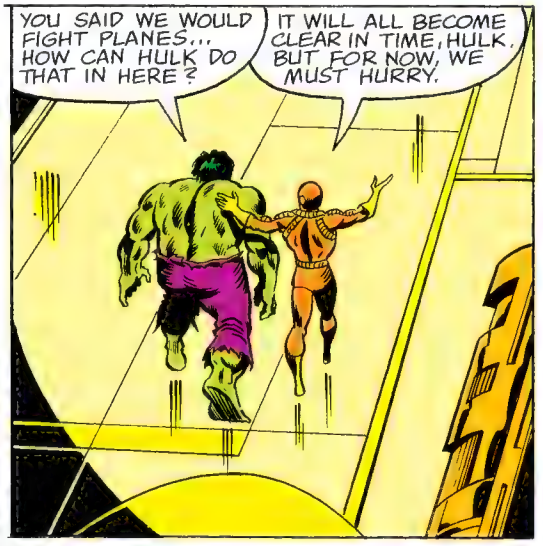
SO! SOLDIERS THOUGHT THEY COULD SNEAK UP ON THE HULK WHILE HULK WAS SLEEPING, DID THEY?
WELL, LITTLE MEN-- HULK IS NOT SLEEPING NOW!
WH-WHAT DO WE DO NOW? WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PROVOKE HIM!
HE'S ALREADY PROVOKED, YOU IDIOT! GAS 'IM!

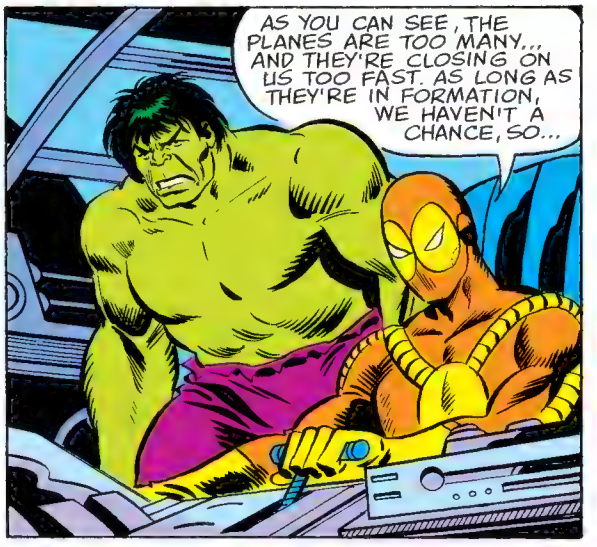
NO! YOU WILL NOT GAS THE HULK! ALL THE TIME, SOLDIERS ATTACK THE HULK... SHOOT AT THE HULK...
...BUT NO MORE! YOU HEAR? NO MORE!
SKRUNCH
OUR GAS TANKS... THE PRESSURE'S GOING WILD! BUT HOW--?
H-HE'S WRECKED THE PRIMER VALVES! THESE THINGS COULD GO OFF LIKE MORTER SHELLS!
HIT YOUR JETTISON RELEASE-- HURRY!
THEIR EMERGENCY RELEASES TRIPPED, THE TWIN CYLINDERS SUDDENLY ROCKET HIGH INTO THE HEAVENS ON STREAMS OF PRESSURIZED GAS...
WHOOM
AND WHEN THEY RUPTURE IN THE RAREIFIED AIR OF THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE...
...THE HULK DRAWS BUT ONE CONCLUSION...
BOMBS? AND NOW, BOMBS?
HULK WILL SMASH YOU FOR THAT!
N-NO! STAY BACK!

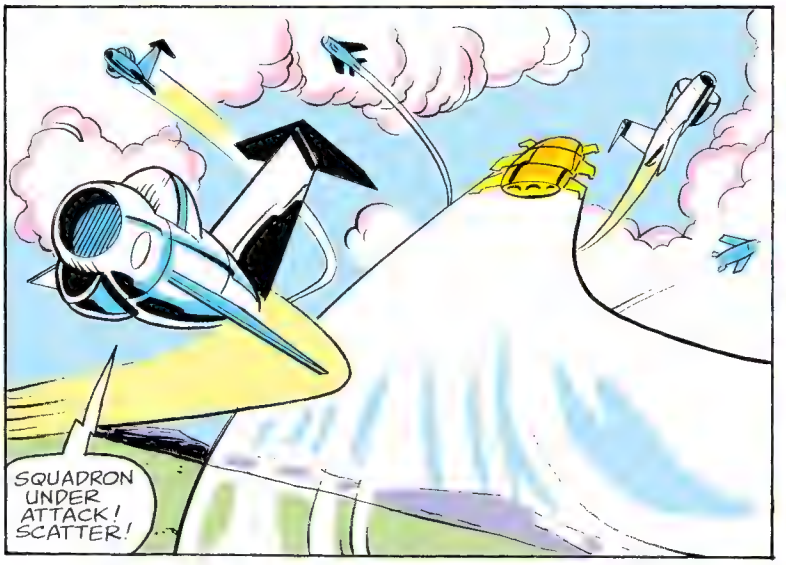
WE...WE SURRENDER, HULK! WE'RE YOUR PRISONERS!
SURRENDER?
SOLDIERS ATTACK HULK, AND THEN JUST... GIVE UP?
HULK DOES NOT UNDERSTAND! WHY?
DON'T BELIEVE THEM, HULK! IT'S A TRICK!
HUH?
WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT?
I AM THE GOLDBUG, HULK! I'VE COME VERY FAR TO SEE YOU--
--AND I CAN HELP YOU, IF YOU WILL HELP ME!
BAH! HULK DOES NOT NEED HELP!
HOW DOES HULK KNOW YOU CAN BE TRUSTED?
BUT, INSIDE THE BUG SHIP...
AH, THAT COMMANDO IS REACTING PERFECTLY! I COULDN'T HAVE PLANNED IT BETTER!
TRUST MUST BE EARNED, HULK! LOOK BEHIND YOU AND I'LL PROVE THAT I AM WORTHY OF YOURS!
NOW'S MY CHANCE, GOTTA GET HIM WITH A GAS GRENADE WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED.
CLIK

TURNING, THE JADE BEHEMOTH INSTANTLY GUESSES THE SOLDIER'S INTENT, BUT BEFORE HE, OR THEY, CAN REACT...
HUH? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THEM?
I HAVE PUNISHED THEM FOR THEIR TREACHERY, HULK. THEY WON'T BOTHER YOU EVER AGAIN.
BUT THERE ARE OTHERS COMING WHO WILL BE HARDER TO BEAT... LISTEN!
EH?
ROSS' PLANES! BUT ROSS WAS SICK*... WHO--?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO SENT THEM, HULK! THEY'RE COMING TO CAPTURE YOU!
*HULK WITNESSED T-BOLT ROSS'S NERVOUS COLLAPSE IN ISSUE #229 --AL.
COME WITH ME AND WE WILL FIGHT THEM FROM THE AIR!
YES.., YES, WE MUST FIGHT! HULK WILL DO IT!
THEN COME ABOARD, MY FRIEND!
UNH?!
WITH THAT, A VORTEX BEAM STABS DOWN, DRAWING THE STARTLED HULK UP INTO THE ODD SHIP. AND AS HE RISES, THE BEHEMOTH TAKES A LAST FLEETING LOOK...
...AT THE GOLD-PLATED STATUES THAT ONCE WERE MEN.


WHAT--? WHERE IS THIS PLACE? HULK THOUGHT HE WAS JOINING A... BUG!
NO, NO! I AM THE GOLDBUG, HULK. AND THIS...YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S MY HOME IN THE SKY. IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG, HULK.
HERE? HULK DOES NOT UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS.

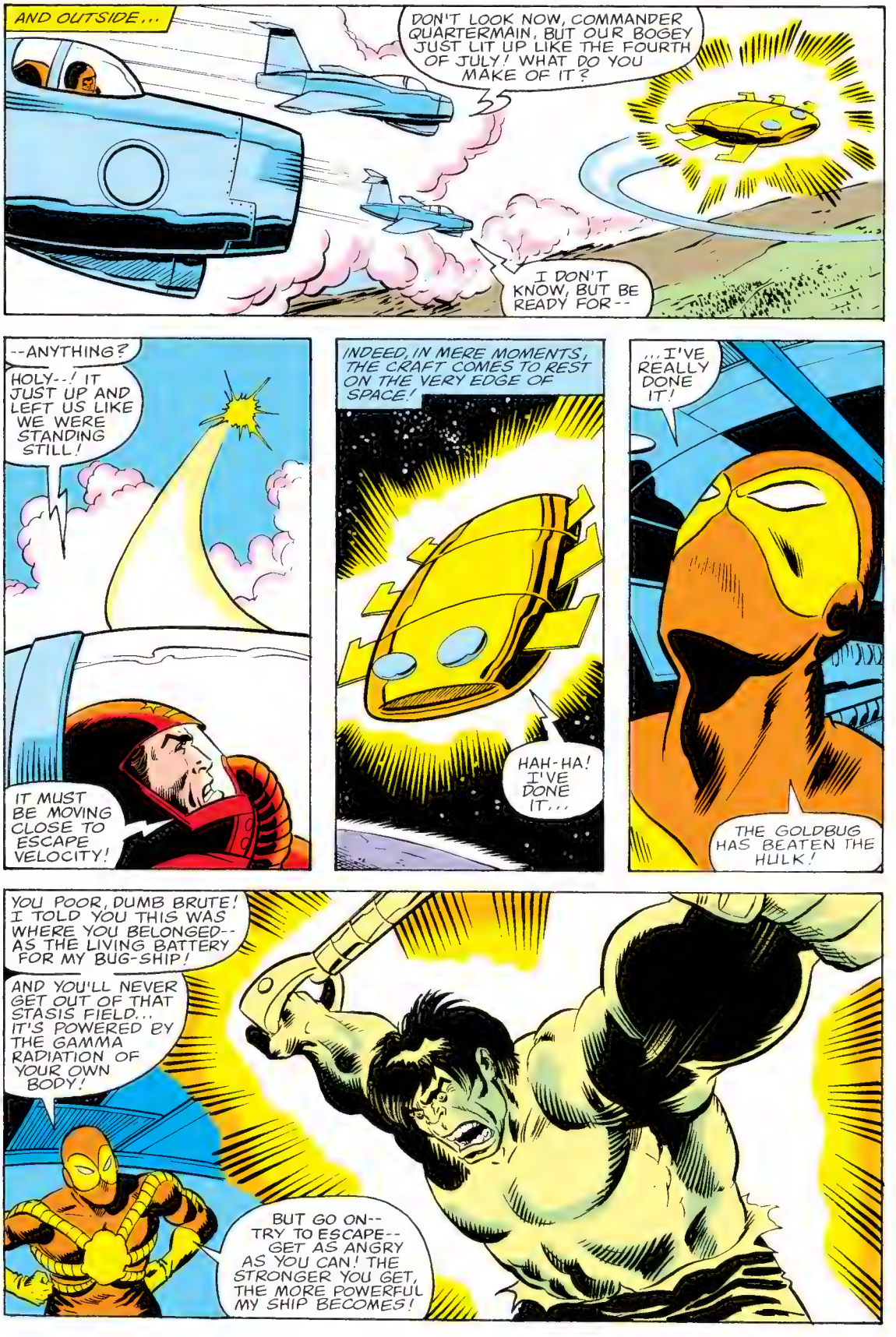

YOU SAID WE WOULD FIGHT PLANES... HOW CAN HULK DO THAT IN HERE?
IT WILL ALL BECOME CLEAR IN TIME, HULK. BUT FOR NOW, WE MUST HURRY.

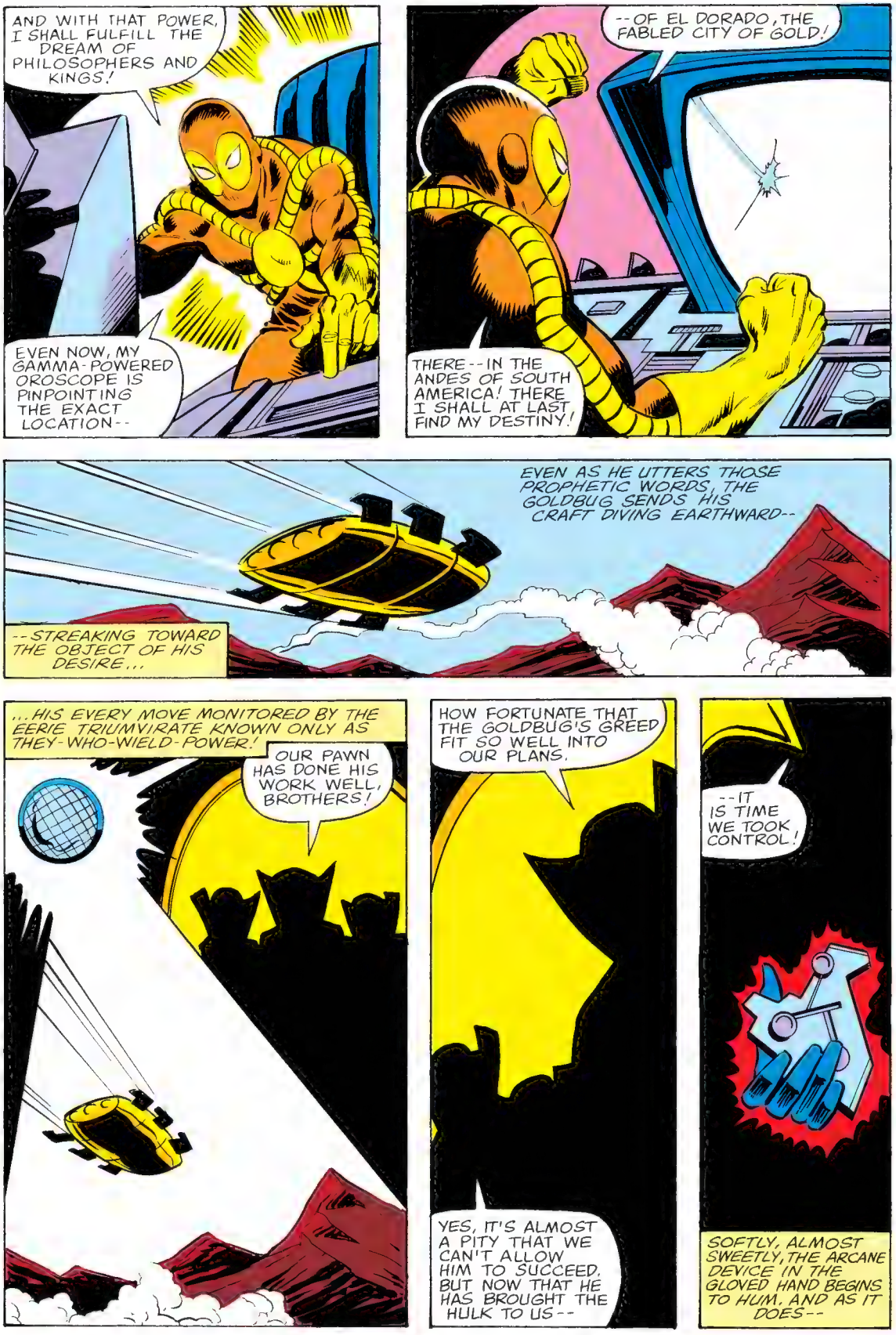

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE PLANES ARE TOO MANY... AND THEY'RE CLOSING ON US TOO FAST. AS LONG AS THEY'RE IN FORMATION, WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE, SO...


SQUADRON UNDER ATTACK! SCATTER!

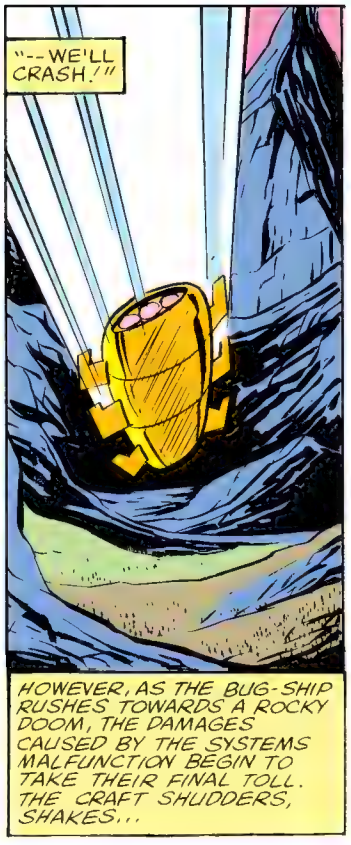
BAH! THIS IS NOT FIGHTING! HULK WANTS TO GO OUT AND SMASH PLANES!

LOOK, I REALIZE THAT THIS ISN'T YOUR USUAL MODE OF COMBAT, HULK, BUT--!
OH, NO! THAT EMERGENCY SIGNAL! IT MEANS THE POWER LEVELS ON MY SHIP HAVE DROPPED DANGEROUSLY LOW.
BZZZ
RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
THE PLANES WILL STOP US, HULK... BEAT US... UNLESS YOU HELP ME AT ONCE!
KLIK
QUICKLY, HULK! GRAB AHOLD OF THOSE POWER CABLES AND YOUR STRENGTH--YOUR ENERGY--WILL FEED DIRECTLY INTO THE SHIP'S SYSTEMS! THEN WE CAN BEAT THOSE JETS!
IT'LL BE JUST LIKE YOU WERE SMASHING THEM YOURSELF!
IT... WILL?
YES, HULK--YES! YOU'RE THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS, RIGHT? THEN YOU MUST PROVE IT--GRAB THOSE POWER-GRIPS!
HESITANTLY, THE PUZZLED HULK TAKES HOLD OF THE ODD HANDLES...
ZMMM
ZZZ
...AND, INSTANTLY THE CABIN IS FILLED WITH A BLINDING LIGHT THAT SEEMS TO EMANATE FROM THE MAN-MONSTER HIMSELF!


AND OUTSIDE...
DON'T LOOK NOW, COMMANDER QUARTERMAIN, BUT OUR BOGEY JUST LIT UP LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT BE READY FOR--
--ANYTHING?
HOLY--! IT JUST UP AND LEFT US LIKE WE WERE STANDING STILL!
IT MUST BE MOVING CLOSE TO ESCAPE VELOCITY!
INDEED, IN MERE MOMENTS, THE CRAFT COMES TO REST ON THE VERY EDGE OF SPACE!
HAH-HA! I'VE DONE IT...
...I'VE REALLY DONE IT!
THE GOLDBUG HAS BEATEN THE HULK!
YOU POOR, DUMB BRUTE! I TOLD YOU THIS WAS WHERE YOU BELONGED-- AS THE LIVING BATTERY FOR MY BUG-SHIP!
AND YOU'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THAT STASIS FIELD... IT'S POWERED BY THE GAMMA RADIATION OF YOUR OWN BODY!
BUT GO ON-- TRY TO ESCAPE-- GET AS ANGRY AS YOU CAN! THE STRONGER YOU GET, THE MORE POWERFUL MY SHIP BECOMES!

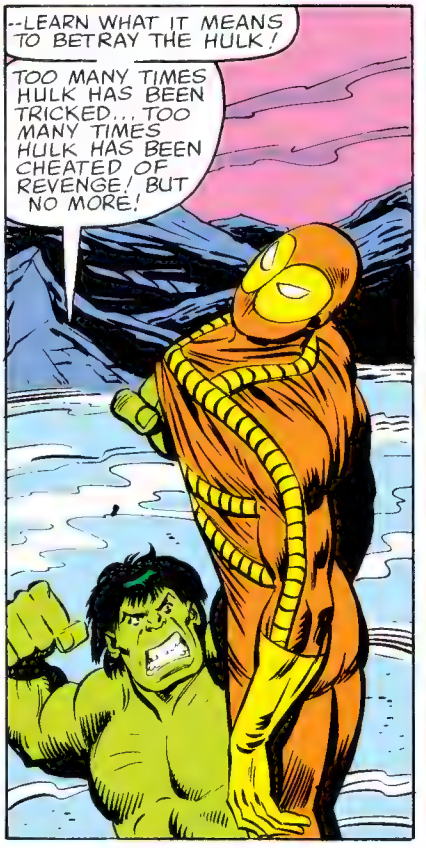

AND WITH THAT POWER, I SHALL FULFILL THE DREAM OF PHILOSOPHERS AND KINGS!
EVEN NOW, MY GAMMA-POWERED OROSCOPE IS PINPOINTING THE EXACT LOCATION--
--OF EL DORADO, THE FABLED CITY OF GOLD!
THERE--IN THE ANDES OF SOUTH AMERICA! THERE I SHALL AT LAST FIND MY DESTINY!
EVEN AS HE UTTERS THOSE PROPHETIC WORDS, THE GOLDBUG SENDS HIS CRAFT DIVING EARTHWARD--
--STREAKING TOWARD THE OBJECT OF HIS DESIRE...
...HIS EVERY MOVE MONITORED BY THE EERIE TRIUMVIRATE KNOWN ONLY AS THEY-WHO-WIELD-POWER!
OUR PAWN HAS DONE HIS WORK WELL, BROTHERS!
HOW FORTUNATE THAT THE GOLDBUG'S GREED FIT SO WELL INTO OUR PLANS.
YES, IT'S ALMOST A PITY THAT WE CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO SUCCEED. BUT NOW THAT HE HAS BROUGHT THE HULK TO US--
--IT IS TIME WE TOOK CONTROL!
SOFTLY, ALMOST SWEETLY, THE ARCANE DEVICE IN THE GLOVED HAND BEGINS TO HUM. AND AS IT DOES--

--CERTAIN KEY CIRCUITS IN THE CONTROL SYSTEMS OF THE GOLDBUG'S SHIP SUDDENLY CEASE TO EXIST!
FZZZT
THE EFFECTS OF THE SYSTEMS MALFUNCTION ARE FELT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY...
SOMETHING... HAS HAPPENED. BRIGHT LIGHT IS GETTING WEAK. HULK... CAN... MOVE!
WHAT? THE OROSCOPE IS CUTTING OUT! BUT WHY? WHAT COULD POSSIBLY--?
YOU-- GOLDBUG!
SKA
GAK
NO
DEPRIVED OF ITS 'LIVING BATTERY', THE BUG-SHIP'S MAGNA-DRIVE ENGINES TOTALLY SHUT DOWN--
--SENDING THE WEIRD CRAFT PLUMMETING TOWARD THE RUGGED ANDES.
NOBODY DOES THAT TO THE HULK!
NOBODY!
HULK--NO! RELEASE ME! IF I DON'T SWITCH ON THE EMERGENCY POWER AT ONCE--



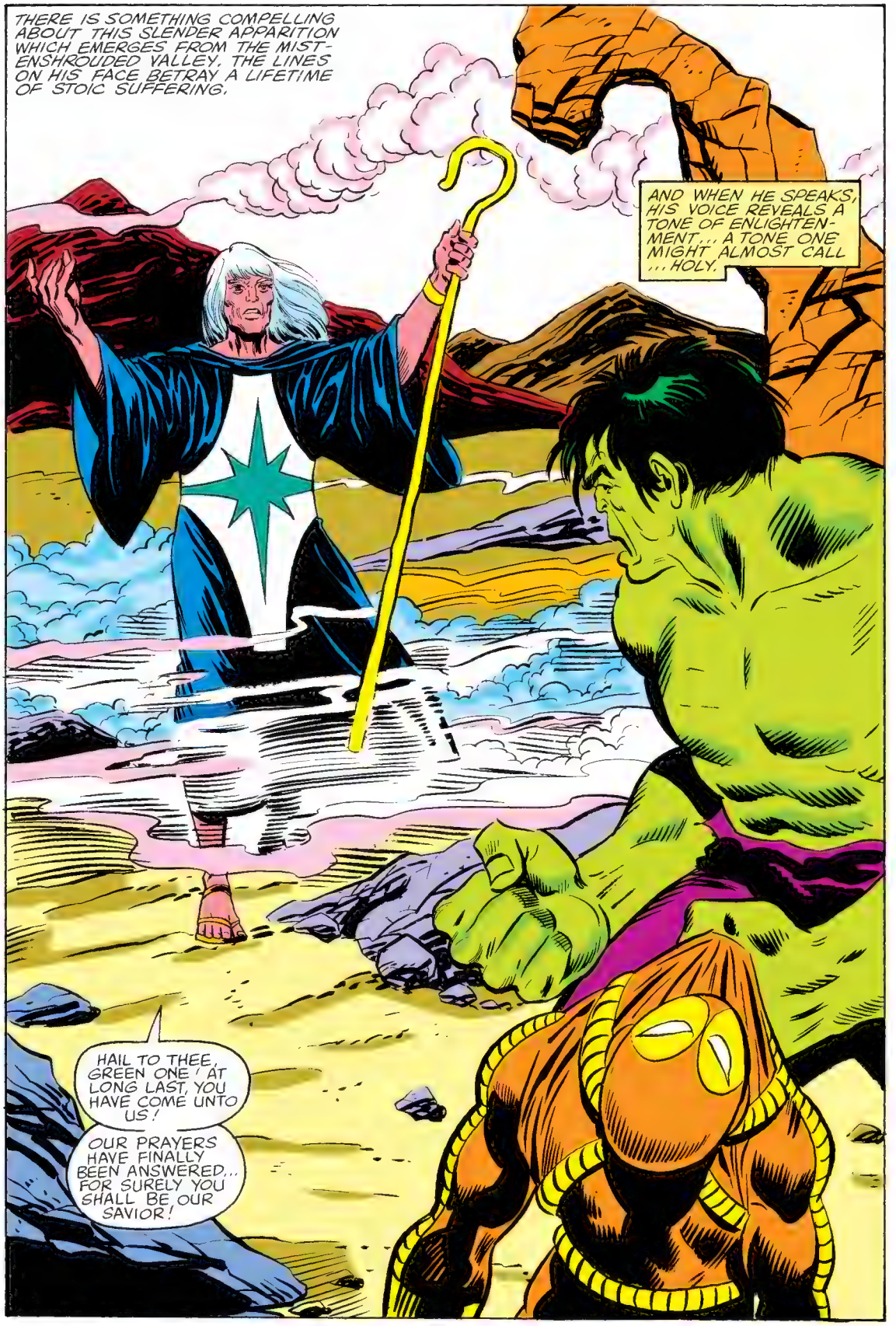
HOWEVER, AS THE BUG-SHIP RUSHES TOWARDS A ROCKY DOOM, THE DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE SYSTEMS MALFUNCTION BEGIN TO TAKE THEIR FINAL TOLL. THE CRAFT SHUDDERS, SHAKES...

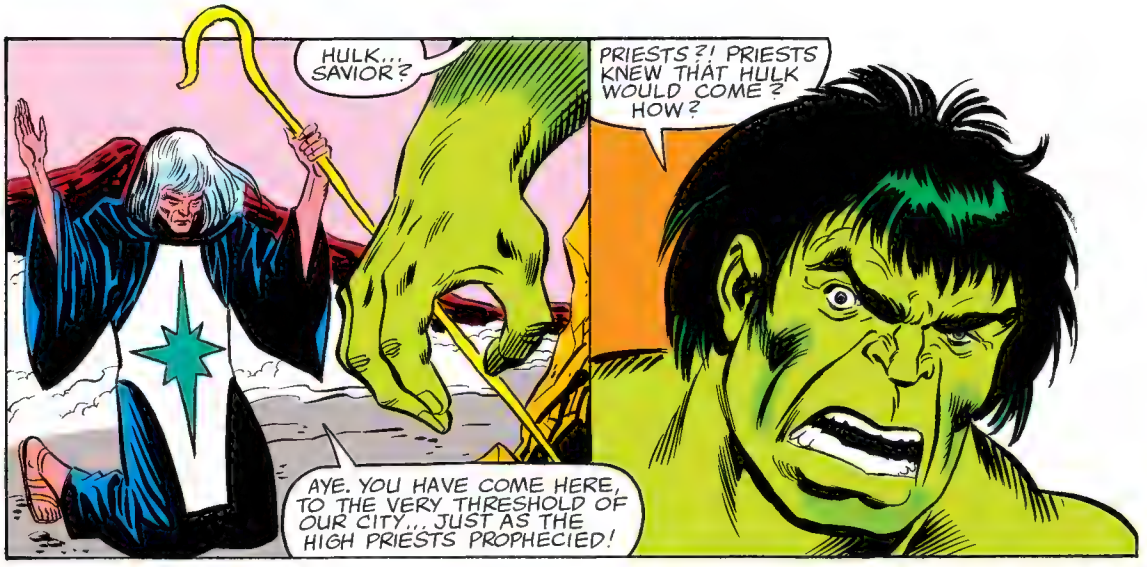
--LANDING IN HIS OWN INIMITABLE MANNER...SHOWING LITTLE CONCERN FOR THE COMFORT OF HIS FORMER CAPTOR.


--LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BETRAY THE HULK!
TOO MANY TIMES HULK HAS BEEN TRICKED...TOO MANY TIMES HULK HAS BEEN CHEATED OF REVENGE! BUT NO MORE!

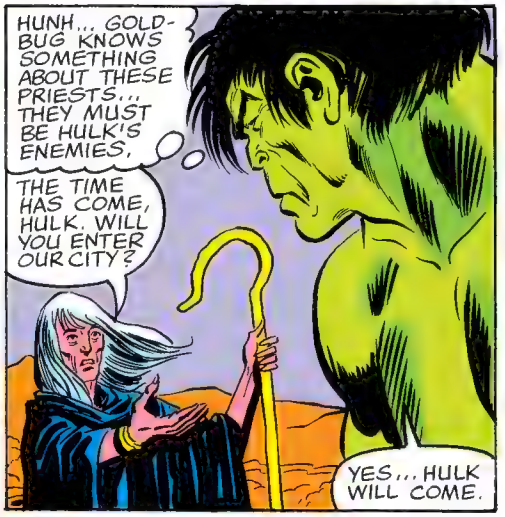
BUT, BEFORE THE ENRAGED MAN-MONSTER CAN DELIVER THE FATAL BLOW...

HE TURNS, NEVER LOOSENING HIS GRIP ON THE GOLDBUG, EXPECTING ANOTHER TRICK...EXPECTING ANYTHING BUT THE SIGHT WHICH GREETS HIM.

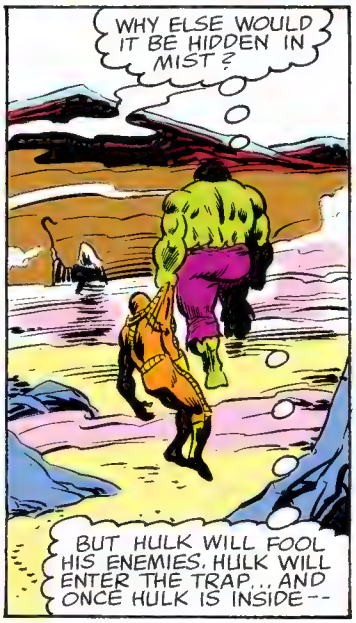

THERE IS SOMETHING COMPELLING ABOUT THIS SLENDER APPARITION WHICH EMERGES FROM THE MIST-ENSHROUDED VALLEY. THE LINES ON HIS FACE BETRAY A LIFETIME OF STOIC SUFFERING.
AND WHEN HE SPEAKS, HIS VOICE REVEALS A TONE OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT... A TONE ONE MIGHT ALMOST CALL ...HOLY.
HAIL TO THEE, GREEN ONE! AT LONG LAST, YOU HAVE COME UNTO US!
OUR PRAYERS HAVE FINALLY BEEN ANSWERED... FOR SURELY YOU SHALL BE OUR SAVIOR!


HULK... SAVIOR?
AYE. YOU HAVE COME HERE, TO THE VERY THRESHOLD OF OUR CITY... JUST AS THE HIGH PRIESTS PROPHECIED!
PRIESTS?! PRIESTS KNEW THAT HULK WOULD COME? HOW?

THEIR WAYS ARE BEYOND THE KEN OF THIS POOR ACOLYTE... THOUGH, LIKE YOURSELF, 'THEY' WIELD GREAT POWER.
'THEY'?
NO... NO, NOT 'THEY'... COULDN'T BE 'THEY'...

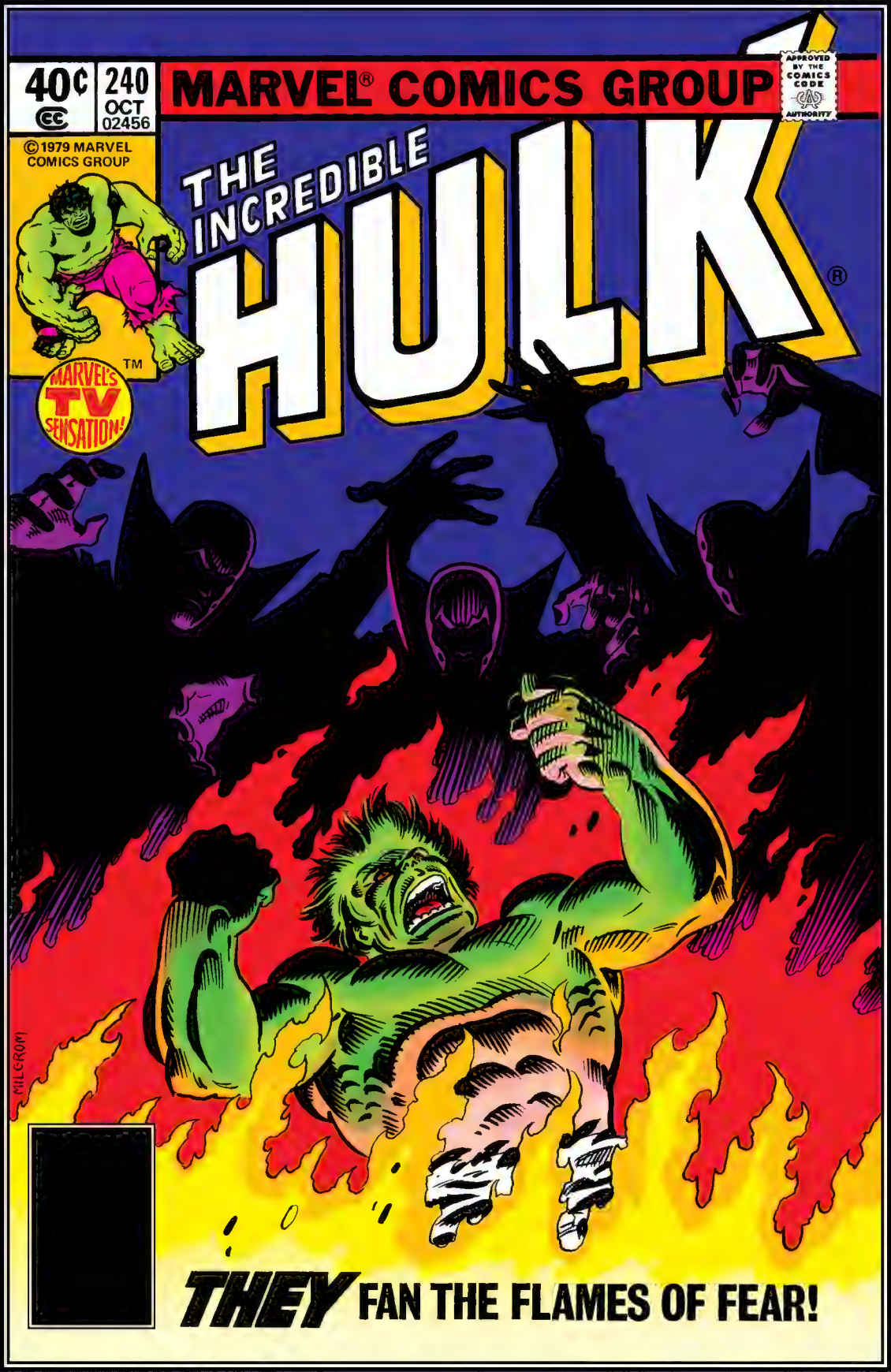

HUNH... GOLDBUG KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT THESE PRIESTS... THEY MUST BE HULK'S ENEMIES.
THE TIME HAS COME, HULK. WILL YOU ENTER OUR CITY?
YES... HULK WILL COME.

FOLLOW THEN, AND LET THE CITY RECEIVE YOU... AND BRING YOU PEACE.
PEACE... HAH! IF HULK'S ENEMIES ARE BEHIND THIS, THEN THE CITY WILL BE ANOTHER TRAP.



NEXT: 'THEY' REVEALED AMID THE SPLENDOR OF...

EL DORADO!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MILGROM
THEY FAN THE FLAMES OF FEAR!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

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...AND NOW EL DORADO

HIGH IN A REMOTE SECTION OF THE ANDES MOUNTAINS IS A FORBIDDEN LAND OF LEGENDARY REPUTE--HIDDEN BENEATH A SHROUD OF CONCEALING CLOUDS IN AN ALL-BUT-INACCESSIBLE VALLEY.

THE FAMOUS ENGLISH COURTIER, SIR WALTER RALIEGH, ALMOST STUMBLED ACROSS IT DURING HIS TOURS OF THE NEW WORLD...IN 1759, VOLTAIRE USED IT AS A SETTING IN HIS CLASSIC WORK, ***CANDIDE...***

...AND IT IS TO THIS 'MYSTIC' LAND THAT THE INCREDIBLE HULK AND THE NOW-COMATOSE GOLDBUG HAVE BEEN DELIVERED, BY THE MYSTERIOUS MANIPULATIONS OF THE GROUP CALLED '***THEY***'!

BEHOLD, GREAT HULK, THE CITY OF MY BIRTH... THAT PLACE YOUR WORLD WOULD CALL ***EL DORADO!***

LET US DESCEND.

ROGER STERN and SAL BUSCEMA PROUDLY WELCOME ***JOE SINNOTT*** TO THE PAGES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK...

as do

J. COSTANZA, letterer - ALLEN MILGROM editor and JIM SHOOTER editor-in-chief, colorist

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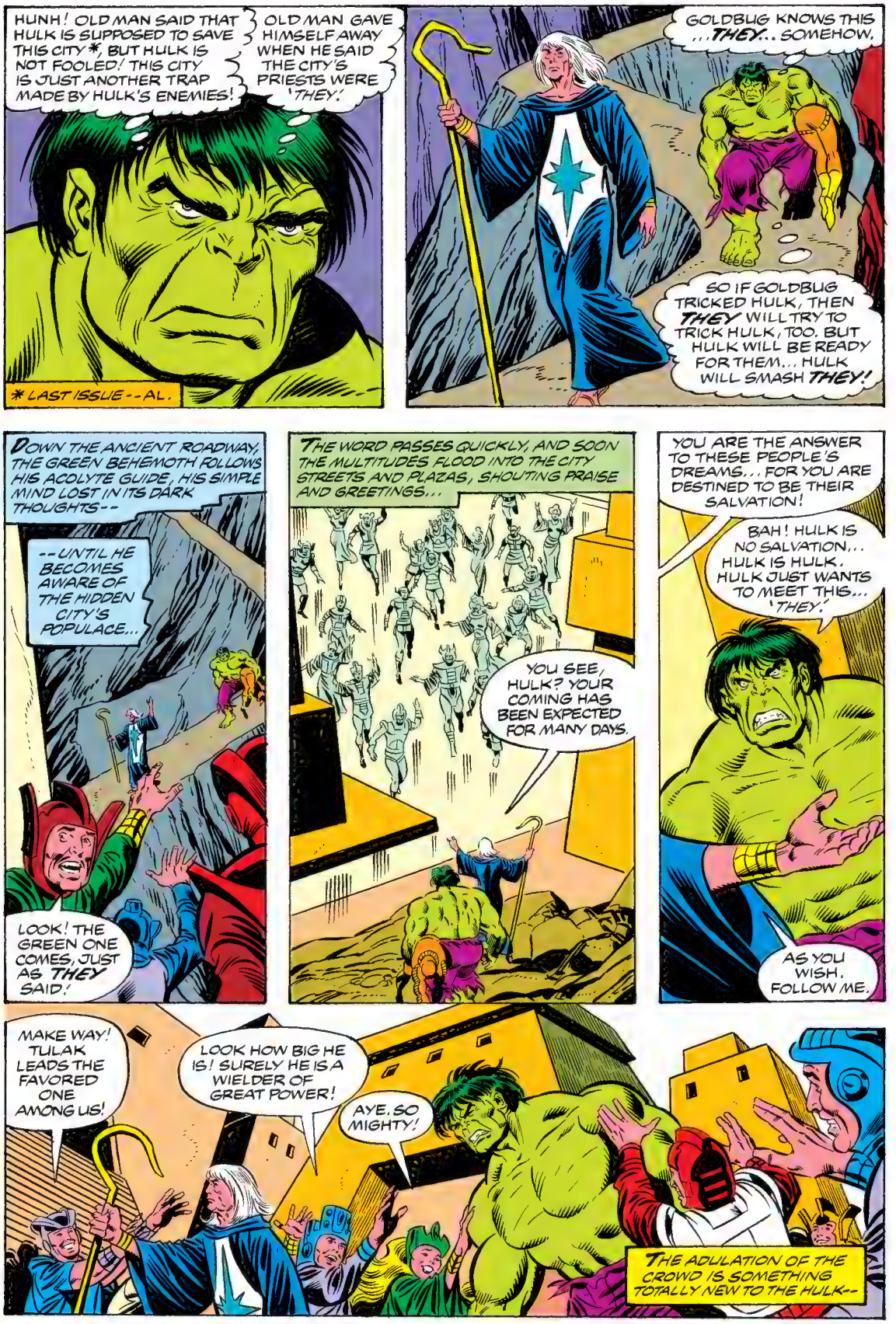
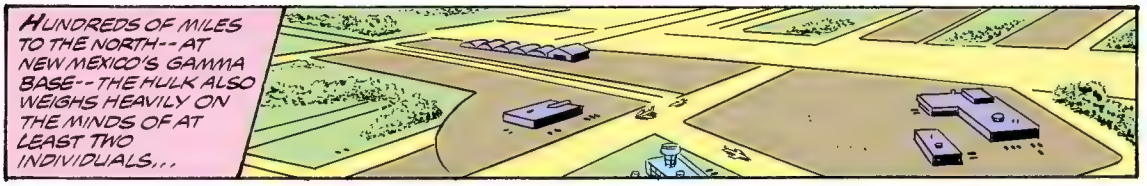
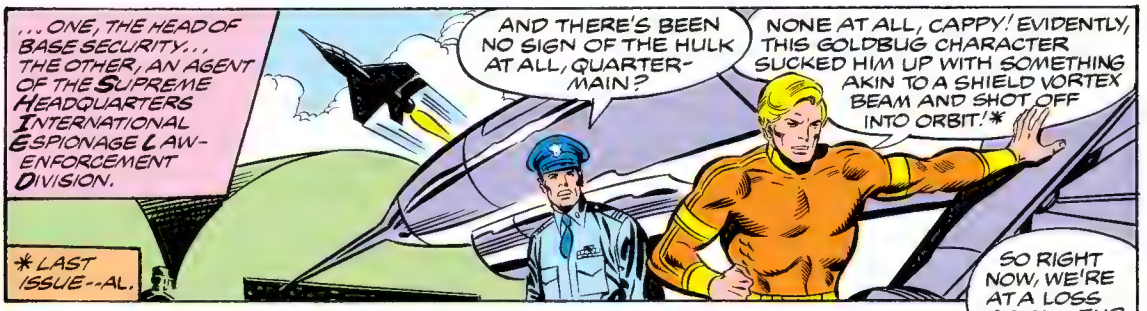

HUNH! OLD MAN SAID THAT HULK IS SUPPOSED TO SAVE THIS CITY *, BUT HULK IS NOT FOOLED! THIS CITY IS JUST ANOTHER TRAP MADE BY HULK'S ENEMIES!
OLD MAN GAVE HIMSELF AWAY WHEN HE SAID THE CITY'S PRIESTS WERE 'THEY.'
* LAST ISSUE -- AL.
GOLDBUG KNOWS THIS ...THEY.. SOMEHOW.
SO IF GOLDBUG TRICKED HULK, THEN THEY WILL TRY TO TRICK HULK, TOO. BUT HULK WILL BE READY FOR THEM... HULK WILL SMASH THEY!
DOWN THE ANCIENT ROADWAY, THE GREEN BEHEMOTH FOLLOWS HIS ACOLYTE GUIDE, HIS SIMPLE MIND LOST IN ITS DARK THOUGHTS--
--UNTIL HE BECOMES AWARE OF THE HIDDEN CITY'S POPULACE...
LOOK! THE GREEN ONE COMES, JUST AS THEY SAID!
THE WORD PASSES QUICKLY, AND SOON THE MULTITUDES FLOOD INTO THE CITY STREETS AND PLAZAS, SHOUTING PRAISE AND GREETINGS...
YOU SEE, HULK? YOUR COMING HAS BEEN EXPECTED FOR MANY DAYS.
YOU ARE THE ANSWER TO THESE PEOPLE'S DREAMS... FOR YOU ARE DESTINED TO BE THEIR SALVATION!
BAH! HULK IS NO SALVATION... HULK IS HULK. HULK JUST WANTS TO MEET THIS... 'THEY.'
AS YOU WISH. FOLLOW ME.
MAKE WAY! TULAK LEADS THE FAVORED ONE AMONG US!
LOOK HOW BIG HE IS! SURELY HE IS A WIELDER OF GREAT POWER!
AYE, SO MIGHTY!
THE ADULATION OF THE CROWD IS SOMETHING TOTALLY NEW TO THE HULK--

--AND TOTALLY UNWANTED!
ALL OF YOU-- GET AWAY FROM THE HULK!
WITH ONE SWIFT MOVEMENT, THE ANGRY BEHEMOTH DROPS THE UNCONSCIOUS GOLDBUG, CLEARS A WIDE SWATH ABOUT HIM--
--AND TURNS HIS WOULD-BE WORSHIPPERS INTO A SHOCKED AND FRIGHTENED MOB!
DID...DID YOU SEE? HE TURNED ON THEM LIKE SOME GREAT BEAST!
AYE!
THIS IS TO BE OUR SAVIOR? THIS?!
HULK...WHY? WHY DID YOU DO THAT? THE PEOPLE ONLY WISHED TO SHOW THEIR RESPECT.
THEN TELL THEM TO STAY AWAY. HULK DOESN'T WANT TO BE TOUCHED...HULK WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE.
LEFT ALONE? OH, OF COURSE! YOU'VE UNDOUBTEDLY HAD A LONG, HARD JOURNEY TO OUR LAND... AND YOU'RE TIRED.
BUT IS THERE NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR YOU?

DOESN'T ANYONE UNDERSTAND HULK? HULK DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING FROM PEOPLE. HULK JUST WANTS 'THEY'!
YES, YES--AND YOU SHALL MEET THEM, HULK. 'THEY' HAVE ARRANGED FOR A SPECIAL AUDIENCE THIS EVENING.
BUT THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE ...YOU MUST BE PATIENT!
YOU WOMEN--TAKE THE HULK'S COMPANION TO THE PALACE OF HEALING AND SEE THAT HE'S TENDED TO.
A-AT ONCE, TULAK... IF THE HULK DOES NOT MIND?
BAH! TAKE HIM!
NOW, HULK, LET US RETIRE TO THE GREAT HALL OF EL DORADO.
THEY ARE THERE?
THEY WILL BE, HULK. BUT FIRST, WE HAVE PREPARED A GREAT FEAST IN YOUR HONOR. PLEASE... COME WITH ME.
A FEAST IN HONOR OF A MONSTER! THAT THIS HAS COME TO PASS IS UNBELIEVABLE!
ALL RIGHT, HULK IS HUNGRY... HULK WILL COME.
BUT IF HULK DOESN'T MEET THEY SOON... HULK WILL GO LOOKING FOR THEM!
AND AS TULAK AND HIS ANGRY CHARGE CROSS THE PLAZA, THE CROWD RAPIDLY PARTS, STARING AFTER THEIR RELUCTANT VISITOR IN WONDER.

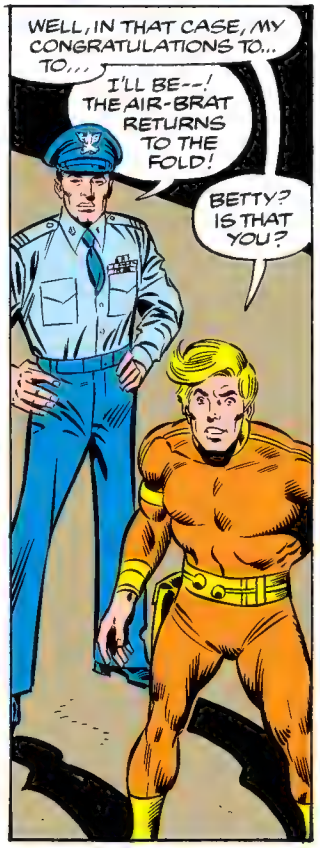

HUNDREDS OF MILES TO THE NORTH--AT NEW MEXICO'S GAMMA BASE--THE HULK ALSO WEIGHS HEAVILY ON THE MINDS OF AT LEAST TWO INDIVIDUALS...

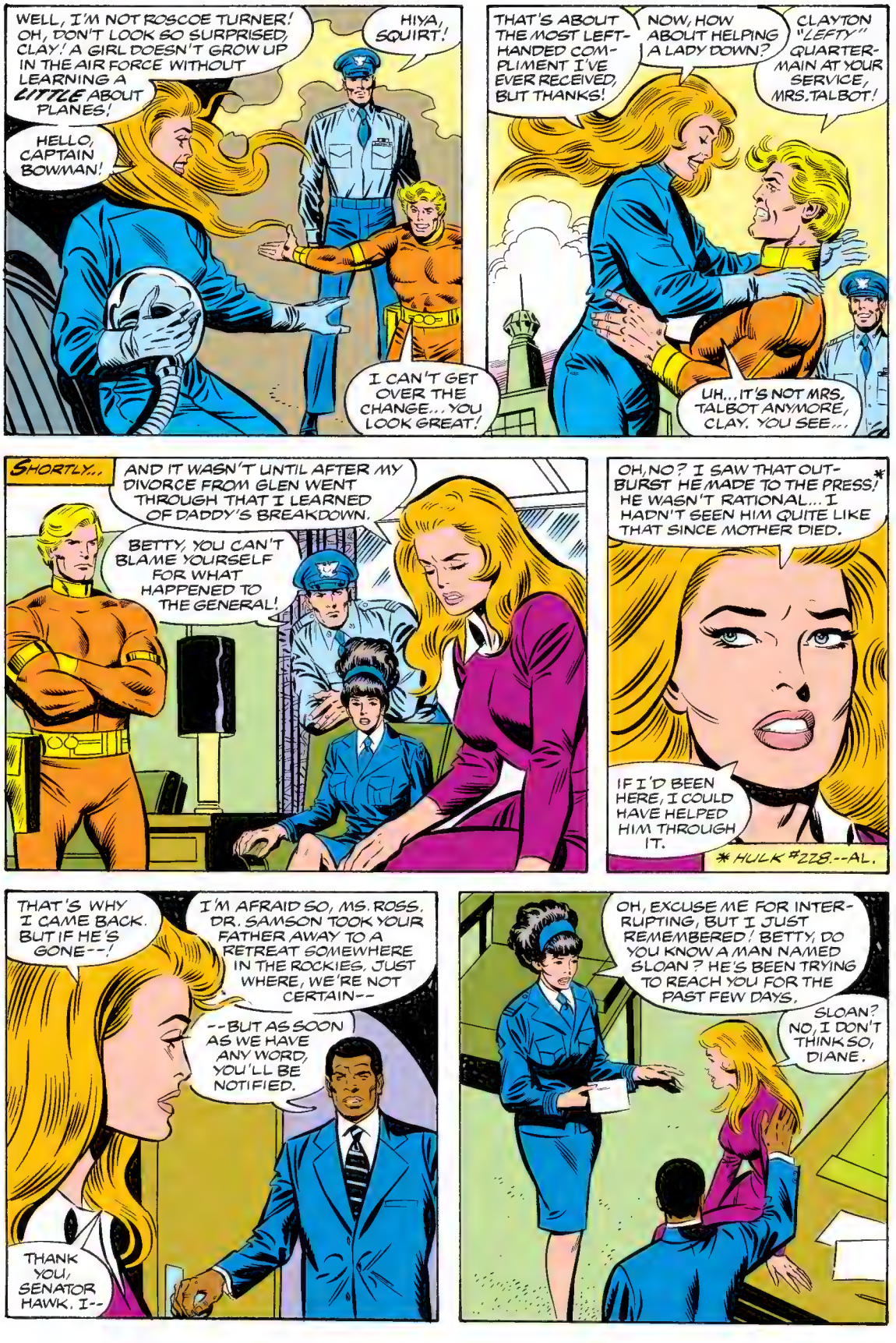

...ONE, THE HEAD OF BASE SECURITY..., THE OTHER, AN AGENT OF THE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION.
AND THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF THE HULK AT ALL, QUARTER-MAIN?
NONE AT ALL, CAPPY! EVIDENTLY, THIS GOLDBUG CHARACTER SUCKED HIM UP WITH SOMETHING AKIN TO A SHIELD VORTEX BEAM AND SHOT OFF INTO ORBIT!*
*LAST ISSUE--AL.

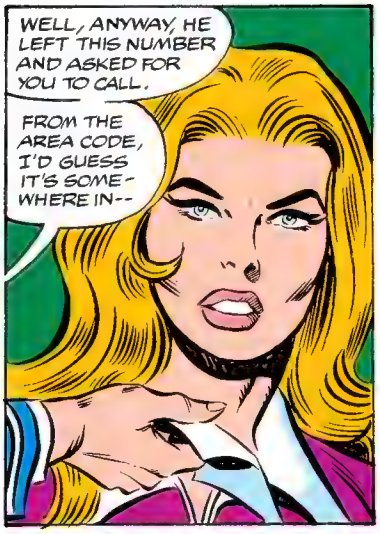
SHROOM
SO RIGHT NOW, WE'RE AT A LOSS AS TO--EH? WHAT THE DEVIL--?
LOOKS LIKE SOME FLYBOY'S SHOWING OFF IN ONE OF THOSE NEW DELTA-WING FIGHTERS.

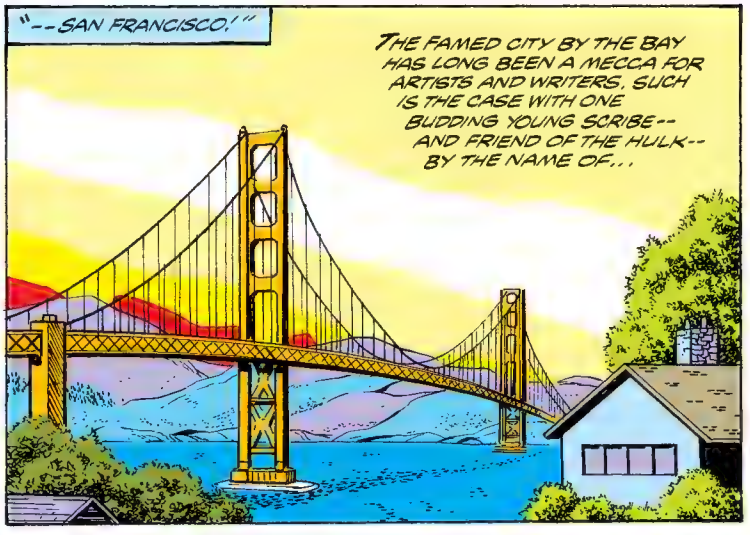
SHOWING OFF IS RIGHT! THOSE THINGS AREN'T MUCH MORE THAN AN ENGINE AND A COCKPIT!
SAY THERE, FELLA--THAT WAS A PRETTY SWEET PIECE OF FLYIN'!

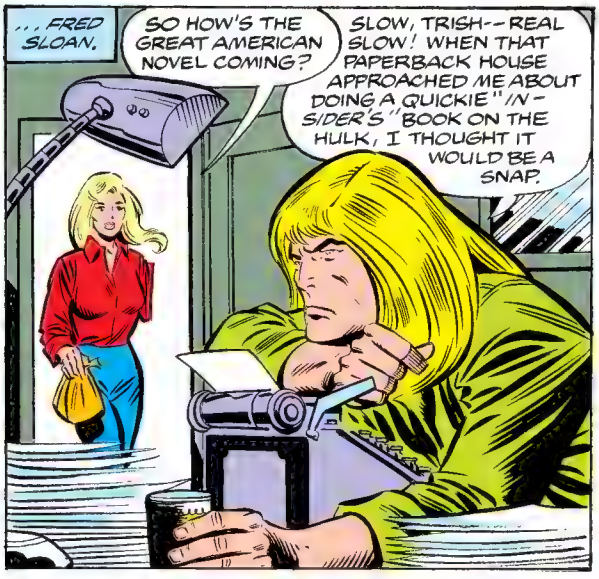
I THOUGHT SO MYSELF, MR. Q-- ONLY WISH I'D DONE IT! BUT THE ROSES REALLY HAVE TO GO TO MY PASSENGER HERE FOR THAT LANDING!

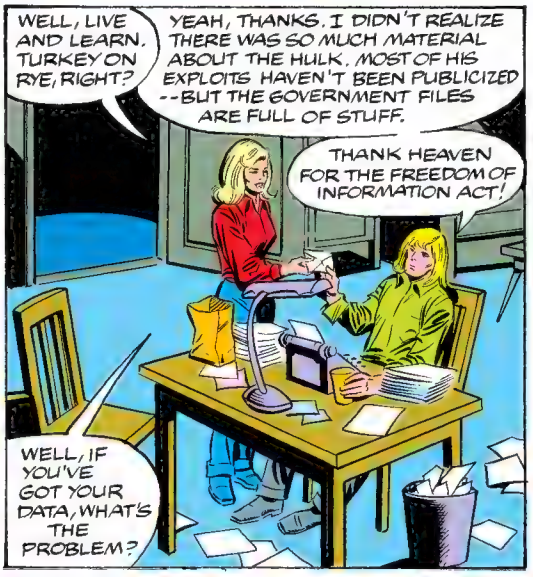

WELL, IN THAT CASE, MY CONGRATULATIONS TO... TO...
I'LL BE--! THE AIR-BRAT RETURNS TO THE FOLD!
BETTY? IS THAT YOU?

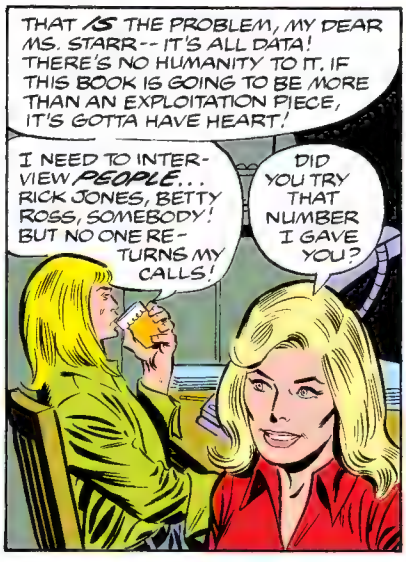

WELL, I'M NOT ROSCOE TURNER! OH, DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED, CLAY! A GIRL DOESN'T GROW UP IN THE AIR FORCE WITHOUT LEARNING A LITTLE ABOUT PLANES!
HIYA, SQUIRT!
HELLO, CAPTAIN BOWMAN!
I CAN'T GET OVER THE CHANGE... YOU LOOK GREAT!
THAT'S ABOUT THE MOST LEFT-HANDED COMPLIMENT I'VE EVER RECEIVED, BUT THANKS!
NOW, HOW ABOUT HELPING A LADY DOWN?
CLAYTON "LEFTY" QUARTERMAIN AT YOUR SERVICE, MRS. TALBOT!
UH... IT'S NOT MRS. TALBOT ANYMORE, CLAY. YOU SEE...
SHORTLY...
AND IT WASN'T UNTIL AFTER MY DIVORCE FROM GLEN WENT THROUGH THAT I LEARNED OF DADDY'S BREAKDOWN.
BETTY, YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GENERAL!
OH, NO? I SAW THAT OUTBURST HE MADE TO THE PRESS! * HE WASN'T RATIONAL... I HADN'T SEEN HIM QUITE LIKE THAT SINCE MOTHER DIED.
IF I'D BEEN HERE, I COULD HAVE HELPED HIM THROUGH IT.
* HULK #228.--AL.
THAT'S WHY I CAME BACK. BUT IF HE'S GONE--!
I'M AFRAID SO, MS. ROSS. DR. SAMSON TOOK YOUR FATHER AWAY TO A RETREAT SOMEWHERE IN THE ROCKIES. JUST WHERE, WE'RE NOT CERTAIN--
--BUT AS SOON AS WE HAVE ANY WORD, YOU'LL BE NOTIFIED.
THANK YOU, SENATOR HAWK. I--
OH, EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING, BUT I JUST REMEMBERED! BETTY, DO YOU KNOW A MAN NAMED SLOAN? HE'S BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS.
SLOAN? NO, I DON'T THINK SO, DIANE.


WELL, ANYWAY, HE LEFT THIS NUMBER AND ASKED FOR YOU TO CALL.
FROM THE AREA CODE, I'D GUESS IT'S SOMEWHERE IN--

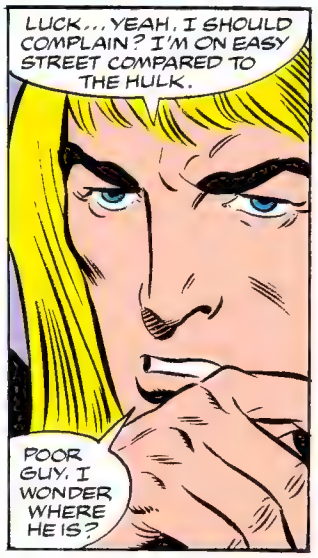

"--SAN FRANCISCO!"
THE FAMED CITY BY THE BAY HAS LONG BEEN A MECCA FOR ARTISTS AND WRITERS. SUCH IS THE CASE WITH ONE BUDDING YOUNG SCRIBE-- AND FRIEND OF THE HULK-- BY THE NAME OF...


...FRED SLOAN.
SO HOW'S THE GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL COMING?
SLOW, TRISH--REAL SLOW! WHEN THAT PAPERBACK HOUSE APPROACHED ME ABOUT DOING A QUICKIE "IN-SIDER'S" BOOK ON THE HULK, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A SNAP.

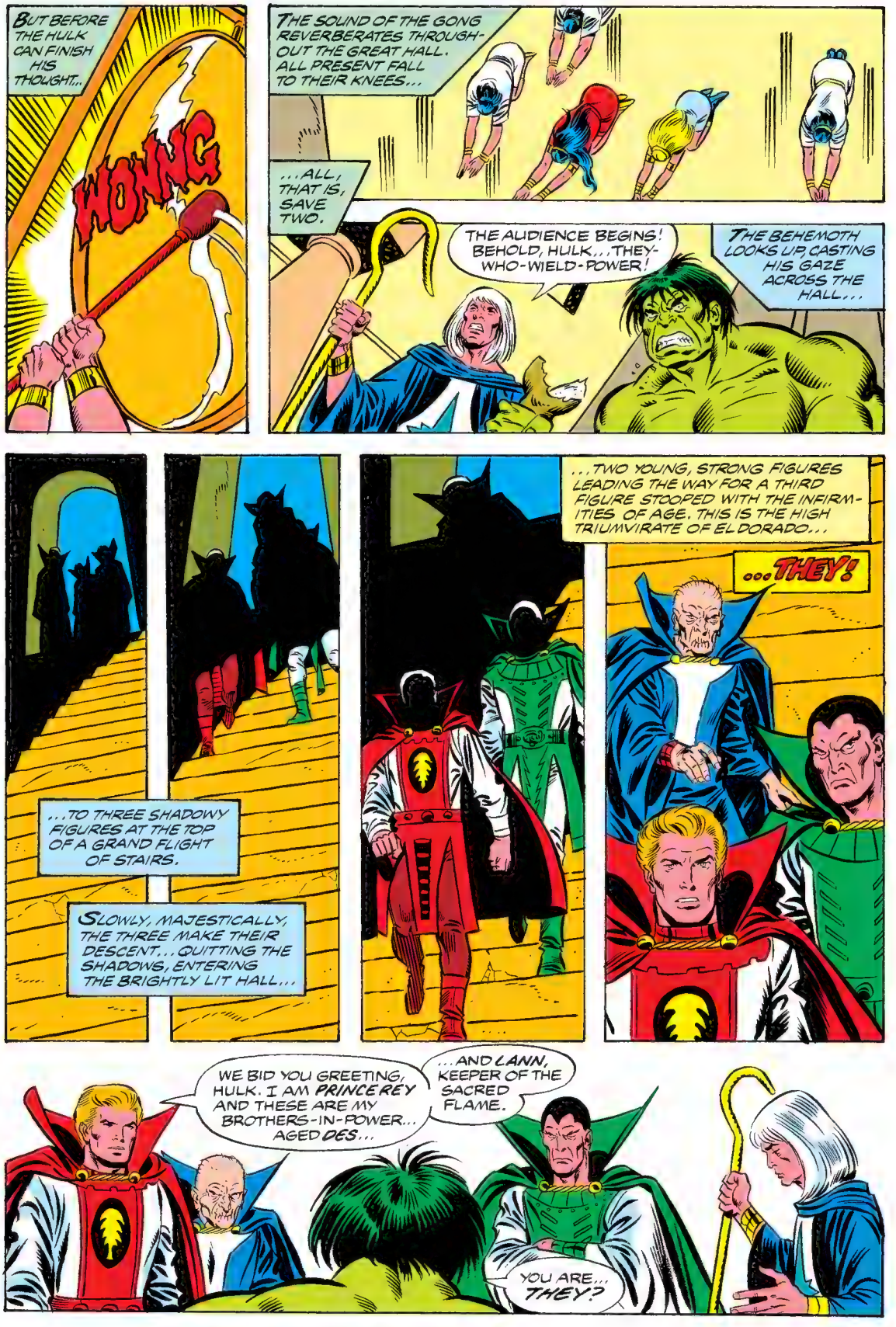

WELL, LIVE AND LEARN. TURKEY ON RYE, RIGHT?
YEAH, THANKS. I DIDN'T REALIZE THERE WAS SO MUCH MATERIAL ABOUT THE HULK. MOST OF HIS EXPLOITS HAVEN'T BEEN PUBLICIZED --BUT THE GOVERNMENT FILES ARE FULL OF STUFF.
THANK HEAVEN FOR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT!
WELL, IF YOU'VE GOT YOUR DATA, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?


THAT IS THE PROBLEM, MY DEAR MS. STARR-- IT'S ALL DATA! THERE'S NO HUMANITY TO IT. IF THIS BOOK IS GOING TO BE MORE THAN AN EXPLOITATION PIECE, IT'S GOTTA HAVE HEART!
I NEED TO INTERVIEW PEOPLE... RICK JONES, BETTY ROSS, SOMEBODY! BUT NO ONE RETURNS MY CALLS!
DID YOU TRY THAT NUMBER I GAVE YOU?

RICHMOND RIDING ACADEMY?* YEAH... NUMBER'S BEEN DISCONNECTED.
YICCH! THIS COFFEE IS COLDER THAN WINTER IN WISCONSIN! FEH!
THAT'S ABOUT PAR FOR MY LUCK LATELY.
*DEFENDERS H.Q. --AL.

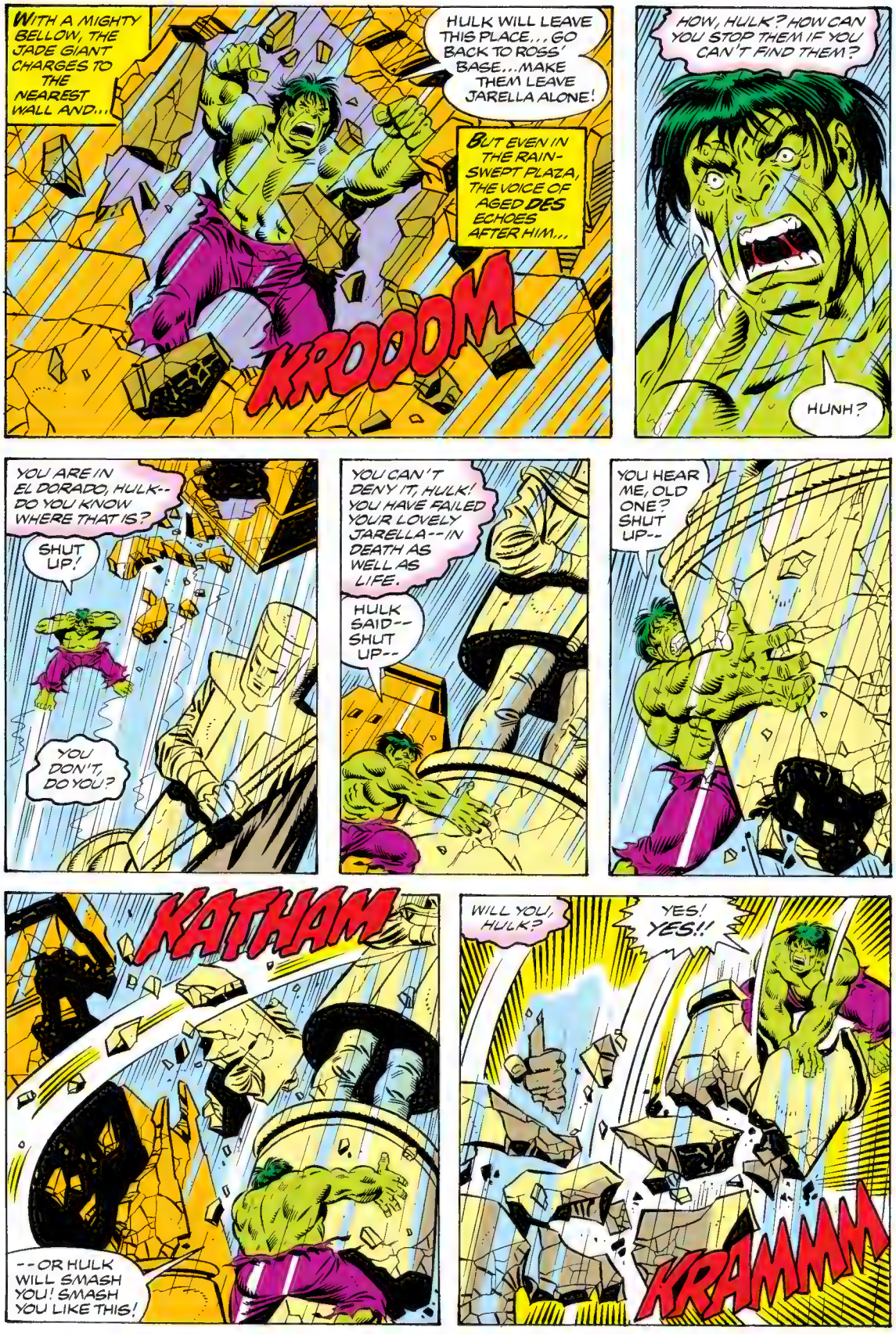

LUCK... YEAH. I SHOULD COMPLAIN? I'M ON EASY STREET COMPARED TO THE HULK.
POOR GUY. I WONDER WHERE HE IS?

BUT IF FRED SLOAN COULD SEE HIS GREEN-SKINNED ACQUAINTANCE, HIS VIEW OF RELATIVE LUCK JUST MIGHT CHANGE.
FOR IN A DISTANT LAND, THE INCREDIBLE MAN-MONSTER IS DEVOURING HIS WAY THROUGH A LAVISH FEAST PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR HIM.
WHILE HE DINES, HE IS ENTERTAINED BY NATIVE DANCERS--
--AND ATTENDED TO BY THE FAITHFUL...
...AND THE LESS-THAN-FAITHFUL.
SEE HOW HE WOLFS DOWN HIS FOOD? IT IS TRUE WHAT WE HEARD... THEY HAVE SENT US A BEAST-SAVIOR!
QUIET! HE MIGHT HEAR.
VIRACOCHA AND TECUMO ZIN PROTECT US! IF THIS GREEN ONE IS TRULY THE FAVORED SON THEY PROPHESIED, THEN SURELY WE ARE DOOMED!
HUNH! NOTHING MAKES SENSE! FOOD IS GOOD... TULAK TREATS HULK ALL RIGHT... BUT HULK KNOWS THIS HAS TO BE A TRAP!
HULK IS SUPPOSED TO MEET THEY HERE, BUT HULK HAS BEEN HERE A LONG TIME... TOO LONG! IF THEY DON'T COME SOON...

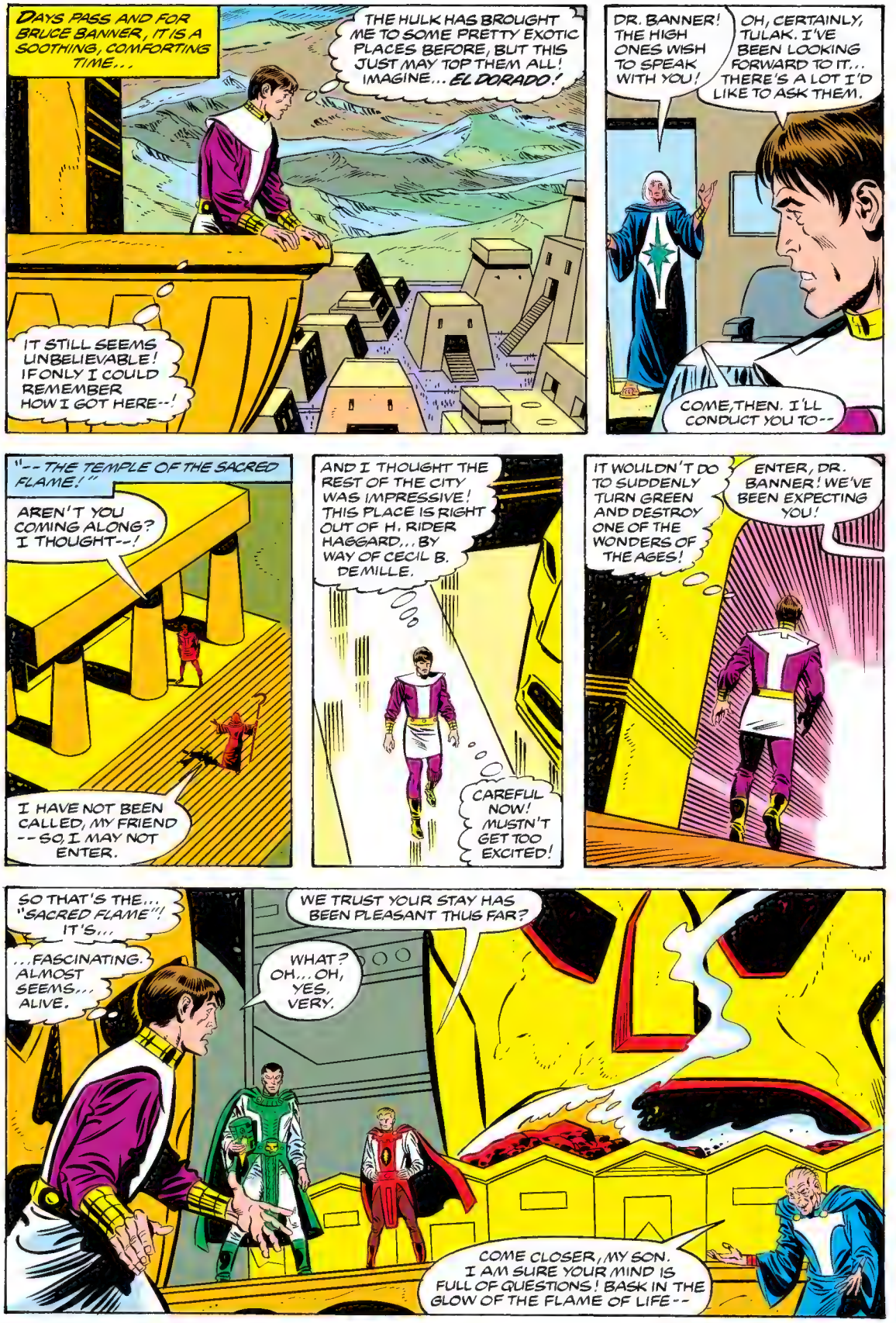

BUT BEFORE THE HULK CAN FINISH HIS THOUGHT...
WONG
THE SOUND OF THE GONG REVERBERATES THROUGHOUT THE GREAT HALL. ALL PRESENT FALL TO THEIR KNEES...
...ALL, THAT IS, SAVE TWO.
THE AUDIENCE BEGINS! BEHOLD, HULK...THEY-WHO-WIELD-POWER!
THE BEHEMOTH LOOKS UP, CASTING HIS GAZE ACROSS THE HALL...
...TO THREE SHADOWY FIGURES AT THE TOP OF A GRAND FLIGHT OF STAIRS.
SLOWLY, MAJESTICALLY, THE THREE MAKE THEIR DESCENT... QUITTING THE SHADOWS, ENTERING THE BRIGHTLY LIT HALL...
...TWO YOUNG, STRONG FIGURES LEADING THE WAY FOR A THIRD FIGURE STOOPED WITH THE INFIRMITIES OF AGE. THIS IS THE HIGH TRIUMVIRATE OF EL DORADO...
...THEY!
WE BID YOU GREETING, HULK. I AM PRINCE REY AND THESE ARE MY BROTHERS-IN-POWER... AGED DES...
...AND LANN, KEEPER OF THE SACRED FLAME.
YOU ARE... THEY?

WE ARE THEY-WHO-WIELD-POWER, MONSTER! DO NOT FORGET THAT!
POWER IS OURS BY BIRTHRIGHT...NOT BY ACCIDENT, AS IN YOUR CASE.
SO! YOU MAKE FUN OF THE HULK NOW, EH? YOU MAKE FUN OF THE HULK'S POWER!
WELL, HULK WILL SHOW YOU WHAT POWER IS!!
THAKOOM!
INCREDIBLE.
I TOLD YOU, REY--HE IS PERFECT!
BAH! HULK WILL SMASH YOU ALL!
HULK, NO! NOT THE HIGH ONES!
BE AT PEACE, TULAK. IF THE HULK WISHES TO CRUSH THE LIFE FROM THIS AGED FRAME, SO BE IT.
AH... SO YOU PAUSE! DO YOU FEAR OLD DES, HULK?
HULK FEARS NOTHING, BUT... HULK KNOWS YOU FROM SOMEWHERE.
PERHAPS YOU DO AT THAT...AND PERHAPS YOU DO NOT.
STOP TALKING IN RIDDLES! HULK WANTS ANSWERS... NOW! HOW DID GOLDBUG KNOW ABOUT YOU? AND HOW DID YOU KNOW HULK WAS COMING HERE?!

MY, SO FEW QUESTIONS, HULK? THE LATTER IS THE EASIEST TO ANSWER... WE WATCHED YOU IN A SIGHT-CRYSTAL... LIKE THIS ONE.
THE CRYSTALS CAN SHOW ANYTHING TO THOSE WHO KNOW HOW TO USE THEM. OBSERVE...
"...THE PLACE YOU KNOW AS GAMMA BASE. IT IS VERY FAR AWAY--
"-- BUT THE CRYSTAL BRINGS IT NEAR CLOSE ENOUGH TO TOUCH.
"THIS BUILDING SHOULD BE OF INTEREST TO YOU.
"IT HOLDS A VERY SPECIAL LABORATORY.
"WITHIN ITS CHAMBERS IS A SPECIAL SPECIMEN TUBE--
"--PRESERVING THE LAST REMAINS OF AN ALIEN SPECIMEN.
"I BELIEVE YOU KNEW THE DECEASED?"
JARELLA.
BUT JARELLA IS DEAD! WHY--?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? THE SCIENTISTS ARE KEEPING HER FOR OBSERVATION... FOR... STUDY.
NO! STUPID BALL LIES... LIES!
THE CRYSTAL CANNOT LIE. BELIEVE WHAT YOU WILL, BUT THE TRUTH REMAINS!
THE BODY OF YOUR LOVER IS JUST A SPECIMEN TO THE SCIENTISTS... TO DO WITH AS THEY WILL!
AND YOU CANNOT STOP THEM!
NO! NO, THEY MUST NOT DO THIS! THEY MUST NOT!!

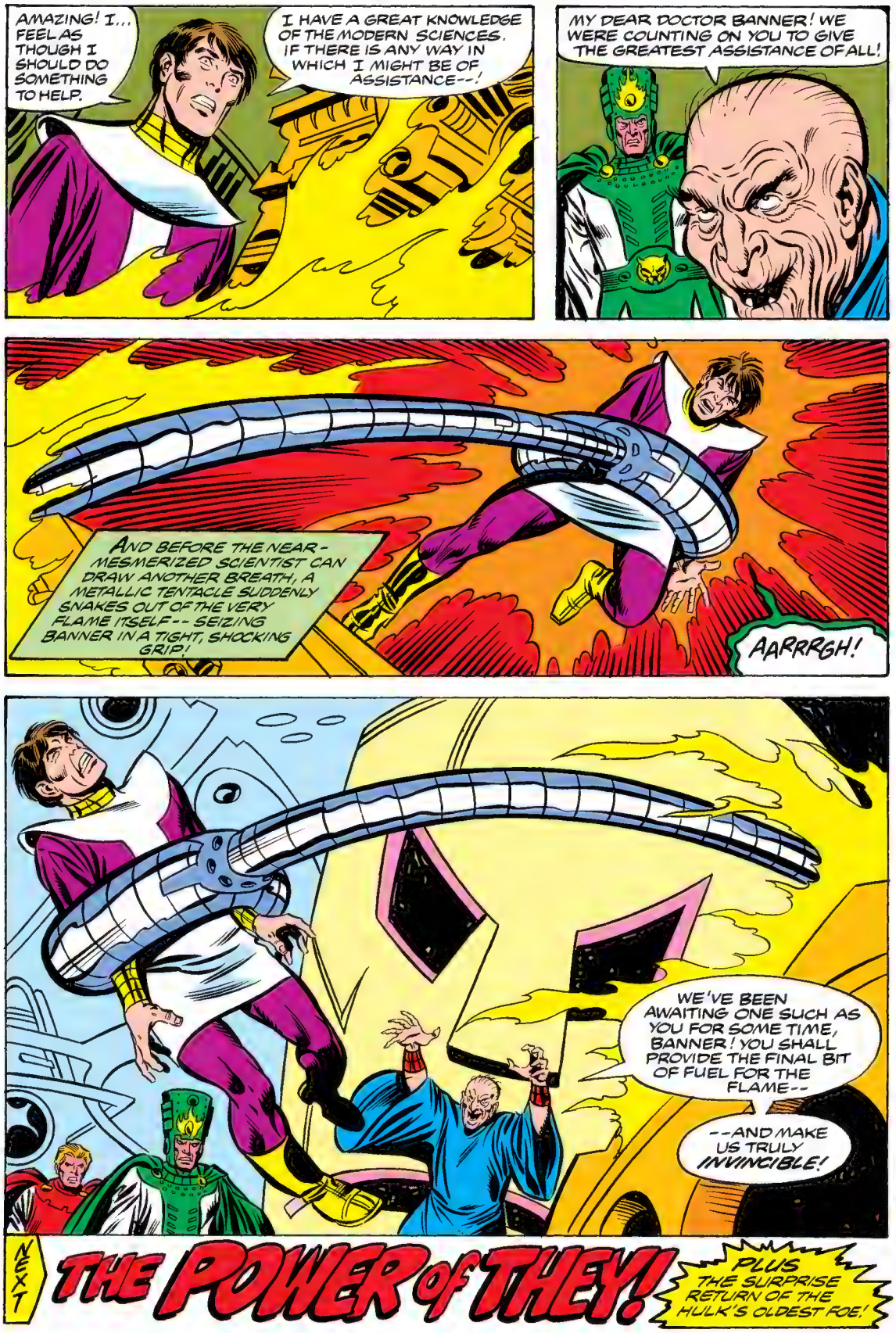

WITH A MIGHTY BELLOW, THE JADE GIANT CHARGES TO THE NEAREST WALL AND...
HULK WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE... GO BACK TO ROSS' BASE... MAKE THEM LEAVE JARELLA ALONE!
BUT EVEN IN THE RAIN-SWEPT PLAZA, THE VOICE OF AGED DES ECHOES AFTER HIM...
KROOOM
HOW, HULK? HOW CAN YOU STOP THEM IF YOU CAN'T FIND THEM?
HUNH?
YOU ARE IN EL DORADO, HULK-- DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT IS?
SHUT UP!
YOU DON'T, DO YOU?
YOU CAN'T DENY IT, HULK! YOU HAVE FAILED YOUR LOVELY JARELLA--IN DEATH AS WELL AS LIFE.
HULK SAID-- SHUT UP--
YOU HEAR ME, OLD ONE? SHUT UP--
KATHAM
--OR HULK WILL SMASH YOU! SMASH YOU LIKE THIS!
WILL YOU, HULK?
YES! YES!!
KRAMMM

I THINK NOT. MY VOICE IS PROJECTED TO YOU FROM AFAR. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIND ME, EITHER. YOU ARE HELPLESS, HULK... HELPLESS!
NO.
HELPLESS.
NOOOOoo
HULK CANNOT BE HELPLESS! HULK IS... THE STRONGEST... ONE THERE IS!
BUT FOR ALL HIS STRENGTH, THERE ARE SOME THINGS EVEN THE HULK CANNOT OVER-COME. ONE IS THE TRUTH...
...AND ANOTHER IS THE BLUDGEONING BEAST THAT IS HIMSELF. DEEP WITHIN HIS MUDDLED PSYCHE, HE SEES BOTH THE TRUTH AND THE BEAST--
--AND UNABLE TO ACCEPT EITHER, HE BEGINS TO FLEE IN THE ONLY WAY HE KNOWS. THE FRUSTRATION, THE TRAUMA, THE AGONY OF MIND--
--TRIGGER AN UNCANNY TRANSFORMATION. AND THE RAGING, HELPLESS, HULK IS REPLACED BY THE SLENDER FORM--
--OF DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER.
WH-WHERE... AM... I?
D-DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME? I... DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM. P-PLEASE... HELP ME.
BY THE SACRED FLAME.
SEE TO HIS NEEDS, TULAK, AND GET HIM FROM MY SIGHT.
HE... DISGUSTS ME!


DAYS PASS AND FOR BRUCE BANNER, IT IS A SOOTHING, COMFORTING TIME...
THE HULK HAS BROUGHT ME TO SOME PRETTY EXOTIC PLACES BEFORE, BUT THIS JUST MAY TOP THEM ALL! IMAGINE... EL DORADO!
IT STILL SEEMS UNBELIEVABLE! IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER HOW I GOT HERE--!
DR. BANNER! THE HIGH ONES WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU!
OH, CERTAINLY, TULAK. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT... THERE'S A LOT I'D LIKE TO ASK THEM.
COME, THEN. I'LL CONDUCT YOU TO--
"--THE TEMPLE OF THE SACRED FLAME!"
AREN'T YOU COMING ALONG? I THOUGHT--!
I HAVE NOT BEEN CALLED, MY FRIEND --SO, I MAY NOT ENTER.
AND I THOUGHT THE REST OF THE CITY WAS IMPRESSIVE! THIS PLACE IS RIGHT OUT OF H. RIDER HAGGARD... BY WAY OF CECIL B. DEMILLE.
CAREFUL NOW! MUSTN'T GET TOO EXCITED!
IT WOULDN'T DO TO SUDDENLY TURN GREEN AND DESTROY ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE AGES!
ENTER, DR. BANNER! WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
SO THAT'S THE... "SACRED FLAME"! IT'S...
...FASCINATING. ALMOST SEEMS... ALIVE.
WE TRUST YOUR STAY HAS BEEN PLEASANT THUS FAR?
WHAT? OH... OH, YES, VERY.
COME CLOSER, MY SON. I AM SURE YOUR MIND IS FULL OF QUESTIONS! BASK IN THE GLOW OF THE FLAME OF LIFE--

--AND LET OLD DES PUT YOU AT EASE. TELL ME, DO YOU REMEMBER NAUGHT OF YOUR ARRIVAL IN EL DORADO?
UH,..NO. I...AH,.. HAVE THIS PROBLEM WITH MY MIND AT TIMES... MEMORY LAPSES AND SUCH. SOMETIMES I'M NOT QUITE,.. MYSELF.
THAT, FOOL, IS WHAT WE ARE COUNTING UPON!
AH, BUT I SEE YOU ARE INTRIGUED BY THE SACRED FLAME. DO NOT BE ASHAMED... YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
FOR CENTURIES IT HAS AWED ALL THOSE WHO SEE IT!
"YOU SEE, DOCTOR, THE PEOPLE OF EL DORADO ARE TRUE DESCENDANTS OF THE ANCIENT INCAS WHO FLED DEEP INTO THE ANDES TO ESCAPE THE TYRANNY OF THE INVADING CONQUISTADORES!
"IN THEIR FLIGHT, THEY DISCOVERED A SERIES OF MAMMOTH CAVERNS... HUGE UNDERGROUND PATHWAYS THAT SEEMED TO BE OF DELIBERATE DESIGN.
"THE CAVERN-SYSTEM EVENTUALLY LED THE INCAS TO THIS ISOLATED VALLEY,..A PLACE WHERE THEY WOULD FIND PEACE, FREEDOM,.. AND MORE!
"MUCH MORE!
"AT THE MOUTH OF THE VERY CAVERN WHICH OPENED INTO THIS VALLEY, THE FIRST OF THE HEREDITARY KEEPERS OF THE FLAME FOUND THE SACRED FLAME OF LIFE...
"...AN ARTIFACT OF SOME IMPOSSIBLY ANCIENT RACE THAT HAD LONG SINCE ABANDONED THIS AREA.

"TO THE FOUNDERS OF EL DORADO, THE FLAME WAS QUITE LITERALLY A GIFT OF THE GODS! IT PROVIDED WARMTH AND ENERGY... AND POWER ALMOST BEYOND RECKONING. THE CITY PROSPERED AND HARMONY REIGNED FOR CENTURIES."
UNFORTUNATELY, IN TIMES MOST RECENT, A... RIVALRY OF SORTS BETWEEN PRINCE REY AND OUR KEEPER OF THE FLAME THREATENED TO END ALL OF THAT.
AYE. TO MY ETERNAL SHAME, I SOUGHT TO WREST THE FLAME FROM KEEPER LANN FOR MY OWN SELFISH PURPOSES.
MY DREAMS OF POWER ALMOST DOOMED EL DORADO...
"FOR A GROUP OF AVENGERS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD BECAME CAUGHT UP IN OUR RIVALRY, AND IN THE ENSUING CONFLICT, THE SACRED FLAME WAS SNUFFED OUT!*
* AVENGERS #30-31--AL.
"HAD NOT AGED DES COME UNTO US--FROM HIS LONG HERMITAGE IN THE CAVES--WE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RE-IGNITE THE FLAME.
"FOR DES BROUGHT WITH HIM THE WISDOM OF ANCIENT SCIENCES...
"...AND WHEN WE TWO JOINED WITH DES, OUR POOLED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ENABLED US TO RESTORE THE FLAME... FIRST TO THE STATE OF A GLOWING EMBER--
"--AND FINALLY TO ROARING, BURNING RADIANCE. BUT ONE STEP REMAINS IN STOKING THE FLAME TO ITS FULL GLORY.
"THEN SHALL EL DORADO SEE ITS TRUE GOLDEN AGE!"


AMAZING! I... FEEL AS THOUGH I SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP.
I HAVE A GREAT KNOWLEDGE OF THE MODERN SCIENCES. IF THERE IS ANY WAY IN WHICH I MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE--!
MY DEAR DOCTOR BANNER! WE WERE COUNTING ON YOU TO GIVE THE GREATEST ASSISTANCE OF ALL!
AND BEFORE THE NEAR-MESMERIZED SCIENTIST CAN DRAW ANOTHER BREATH, A METALLIC TENTACLE SUDDENLY SNAKES OUT OF THE VERY FLAME ITSELF -- SEIZING BANNER IN A TIGHT, SHOCKING GRIP!
AARRRGH!
WE'VE BEEN AWAITING ONE SUCH AS YOU FOR SOME TIME, BANNER! YOU SHALL PROVIDE THE FINAL BIT OF FUEL FOR THE FLAME--
--AND MAKE US TRULY INVINCIBLE!
NEXT
THE POWER of THEY!
PLUS THE SURPRISE RETURN OF THE HULK'S OLDEST FOE!

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...IS BETTER THAN NONE!
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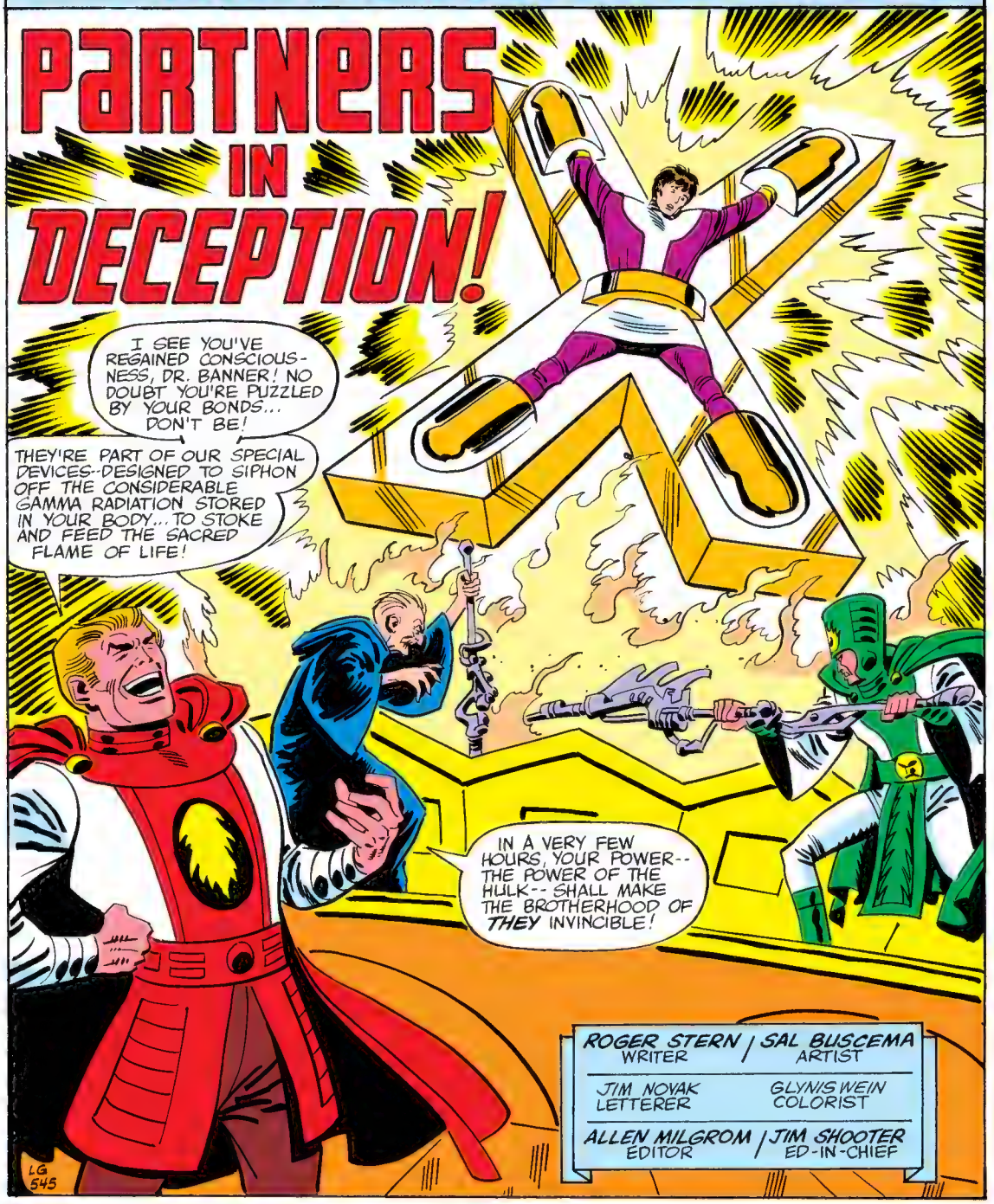
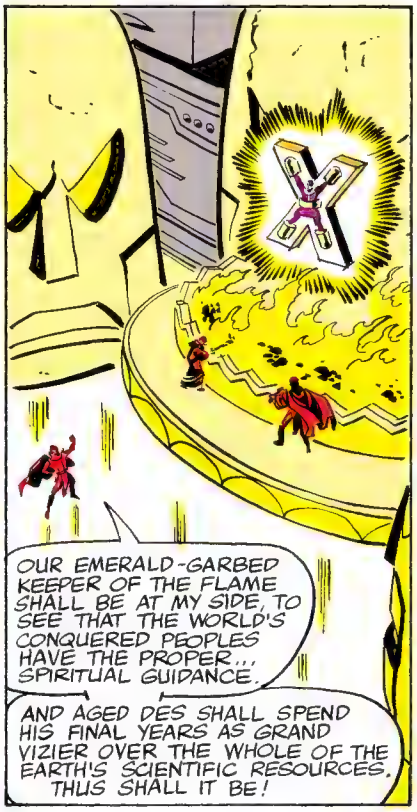

I SEE YOU'VE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, DR. BANNER! NO DOUBT YOU'RE PUZZLED BY YOUR BONDS... DON'T BE!
THEY'RE PART OF OUR SPECIAL DEVICES--DESIGNED TO SIPHON OFF THE CONSIDERABLE GAMMA RADIATION STORED IN YOUR BODY...TO STOKE AND FEED THE SACRED FLAME OF LIFE!
IN A VERY FEW HOURS, YOUR POWER--THE POWER OF THE HULK--SHALL MAKE THE BROTHERHOOD OF THEY INVINCIBLE!
LG 545

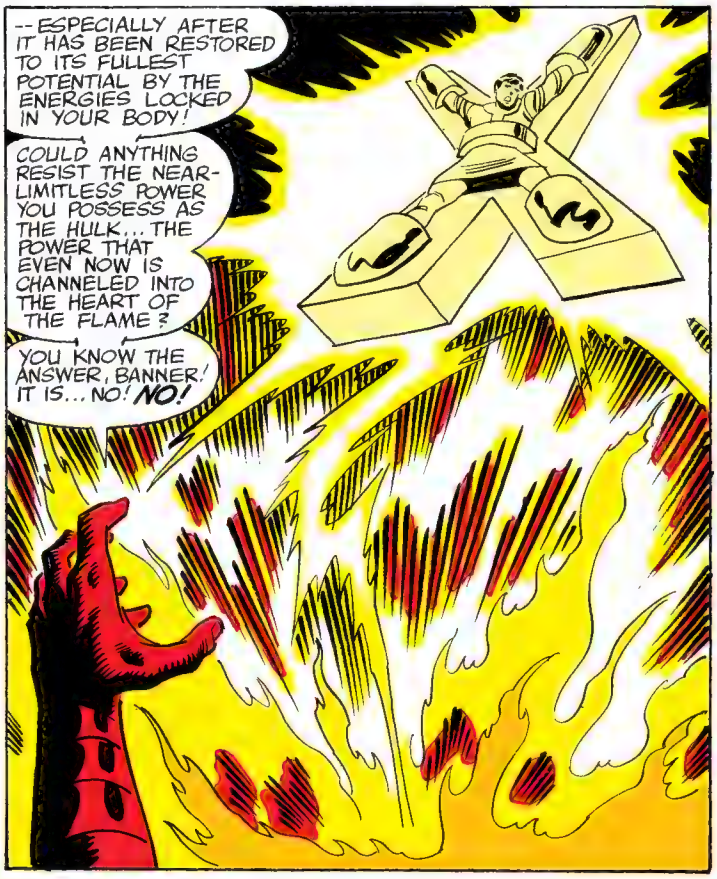
ROGER STERN WRITER	SAL BUSCEMA ARTIST
JIM NOVAK LETTERER	GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST
ALLEN MILGROM EDITOR	JIM SHOOTER ED-IN-CHIEF

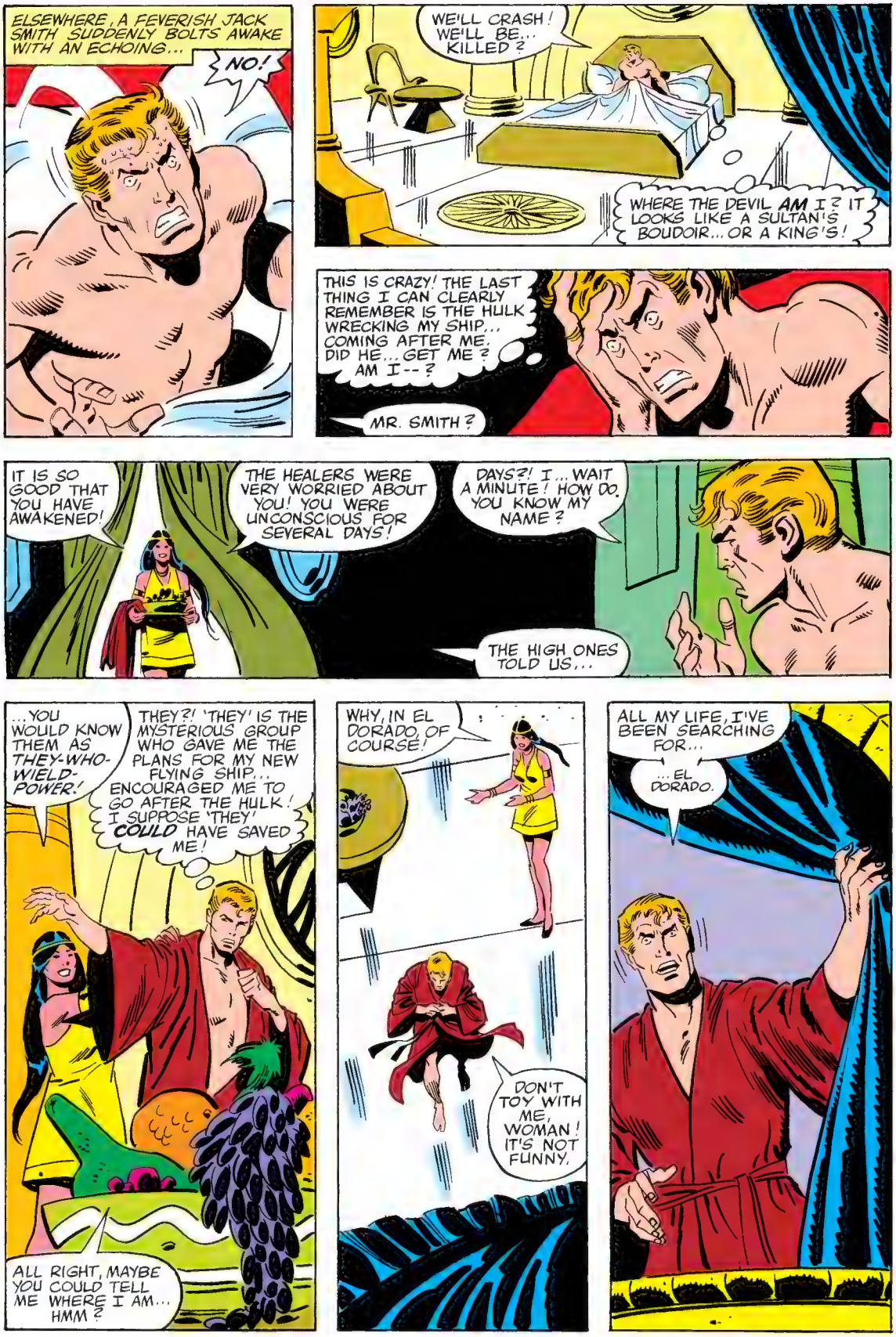
WITH THE FULL POWER OF THE FLAME AT OUR COMMAND, THERE WILL BE NO STOPPING US!
I, PRINCE REY, WILL BUILD A MIGHTY WAR MACHINE THAT WILL SWEEP OUT OF THIS HIDDEN VALLEY OF EL DORADO AND CONQUER A WORLD!

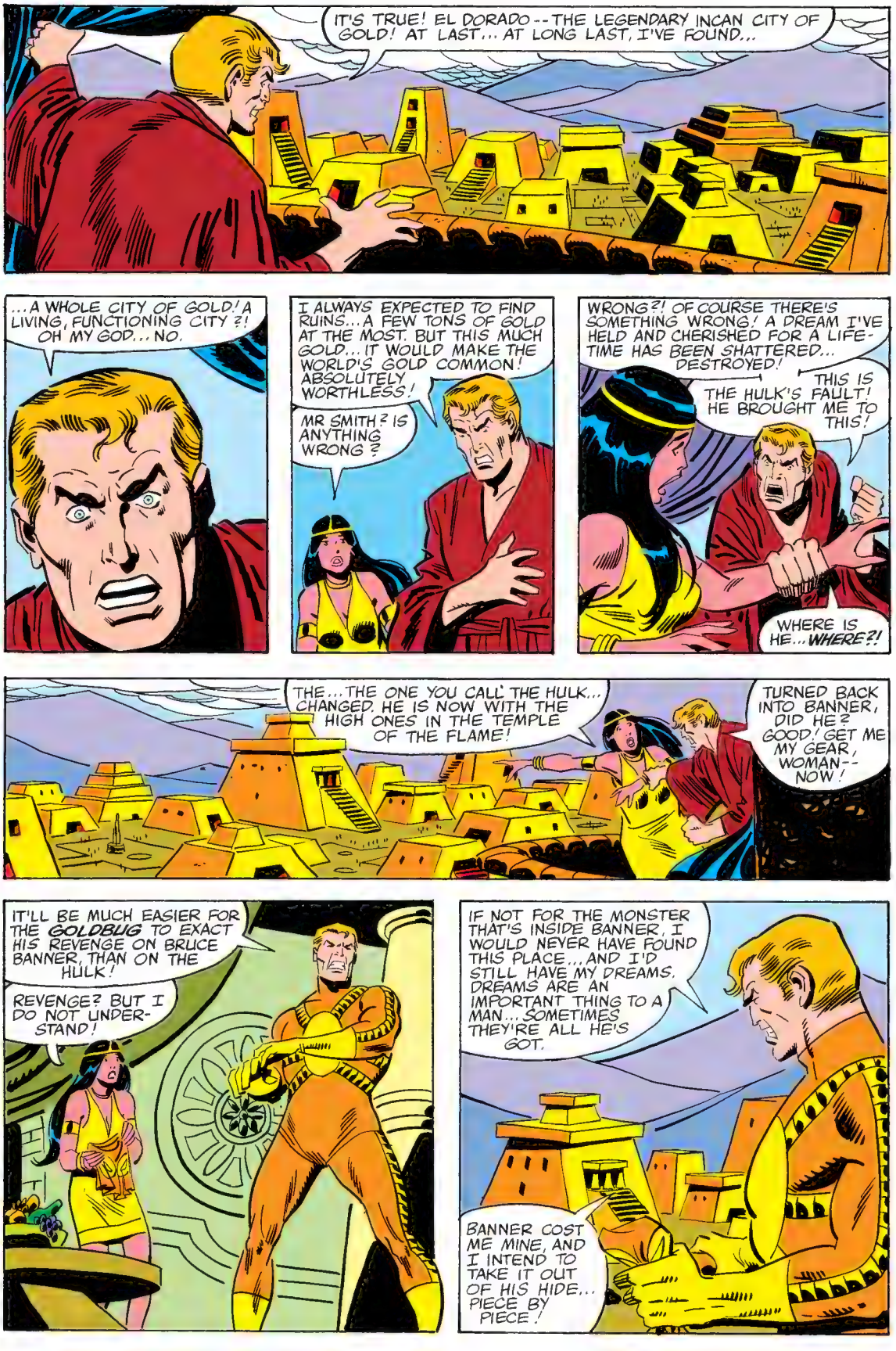

OUR EMERALD-GARBED KEEPER OF THE FLAME SHALL BE AT MY SIDE, TO SEE THAT THE WORLD'S CONQUERED PEOPLES HAVE THE PROPER... SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE.
AND AGED DES SHALL SPEND HIS FINAL YEARS AS GRAND VIZIER OVER THE WHOLE OF THE EARTH'S SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES. THUS SHALL IT BE!

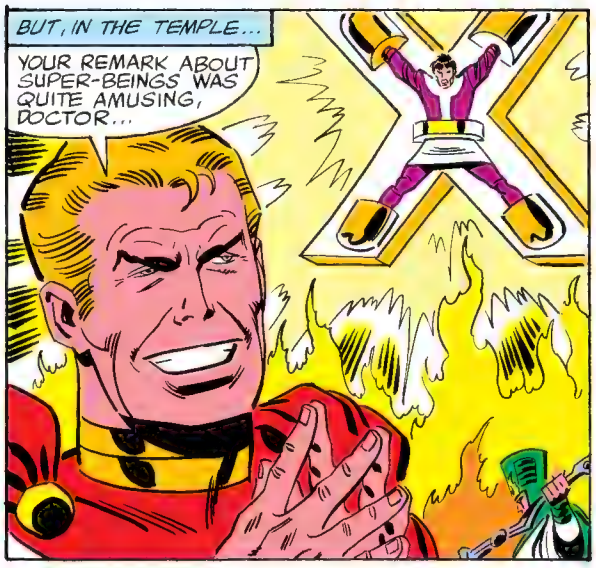
YOU... YOU'RE MAD! ALL OF YOU!
THERE ARE DOZENS OF SUPER-BEINGS IN THE WORLD WHO WILL OPPOSE YOU! YOUR WAR MACHINE WILL BE STOPPED BEFORE IT CAN EVEN GET OUT OF THE ANDES!

WE ARE FAR FROM MAD, BANNER! THE POWER OF THE FLAME IS OF A SCIENCE OLDER THAN ANY UPON THIS EARTH!
AN ARMY OF SUPER-BEINGS COULD NOT STAND AGAINST IT--

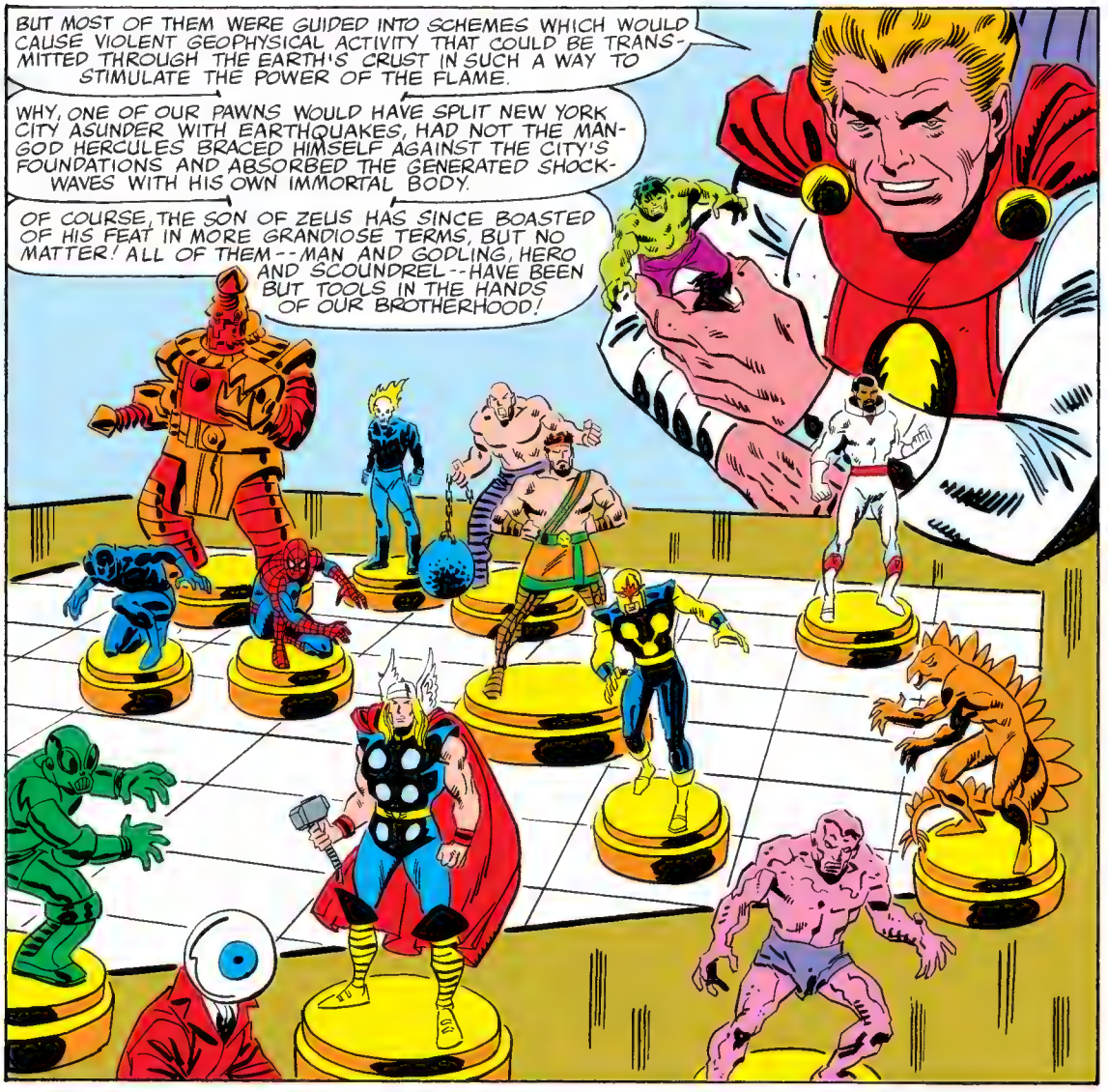

--ESPECIALLY AFTER IT HAS BEEN RESTORED TO ITS FULLEST POTENTIAL BY THE ENERGIES LOCKED IN YOUR BODY!
COULD ANYTHING RESIST THE NEAR-LIMITLESS POWER YOU POSSESS AS THE HULK... THE POWER THAT EVEN NOW IS CHANNELED INTO THE HEART OF THE FLAME?
YOU KNOW THE ANSWER, BANNER! IT IS... NO! NO!


ELSEWHERE, A FEVERISH JACK SMITH SUDDENLY BOLTS AWAKE WITH AN ECHOING...
NO!
WE'LL CRASH! WE'LL BE... KILLED?
WHERE THE DEVIL AM I? IT LOOKS LIKE A SULTAN'S BOUDOIR... OR A KING'S!
THIS IS CRAZY! THE LAST THING I CAN CLEARLY REMEMBER IS THE HULK WRECKING MY SHIP... COMING AFTER ME. DID HE... GET ME? AM I--?
MR. SMITH?
IT IS SO GOOD THAT YOU HAVE AWAKENED!
THE HEALERS WERE VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU! YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS FOR SEVERAL DAYS!
DAYS?! I... WAIT A MINUTE! HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
THE HIGH ONES TOLD US...
...YOU WOULD KNOW THEM AS THEY-WHO-WIELD-POWER!
THEY?! 'THEY' IS THE MYSTERIOUS GROUP WHO GAVE ME THE PLANS FOR MY NEW FLYING SHIP... ENCOURAGED ME TO GO AFTER THE HULK! I SUPPOSE 'THEY' COULD HAVE SAVED ME!
ALL RIGHT, MAYBE YOU COULD TELL ME WHERE I AM... HMM?
WHY, IN EL DORADO, OF COURSE!
DON'T TOY WITH ME, WOMAN! IT'S NOT FUNNY.
ALL MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR...
...EL DORADO.

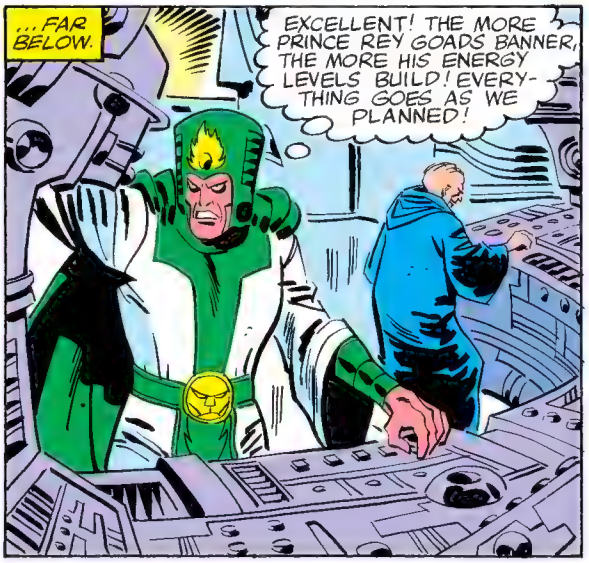

IT'S TRUE! EL DORADO--THE LEGENDARY INCAN CITY OF GOLD! AT LAST... AT LONG LAST, I'VE FOUND...
...A WHOLE CITY OF GOLD! A LIVING, FUNCTIONING CITY?! OH MY GOD... NO.
I ALWAYS EXPECTED TO FIND RUINS... A FEW TONS OF GOLD AT THE MOST. BUT THIS MUCH GOLD... IT WOULD MAKE THE WORLD'S GOLD COMMON! ABSOLUTELY WORTHLESS!
MR SMITH? IS ANYTHING WRONG?
WRONG?! OF COURSE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG! A DREAM I'VE HELD AND CHERISHED FOR A LIFETIME HAS BEEN SHATTERED... DESTROYED!
THIS IS THE HULK'S FAULT! HE BROUGHT ME TO THIS!
WHERE IS HE... WHERE?!
THE... THE ONE YOU CALL THE HULK... CHANGED. HE IS NOW WITH THE HIGH ONES IN THE TEMPLE OF THE FLAME!
TURNED BACK INTO BANNER, DID HE? GOOD! GET ME MY GEAR, WOMAN-- NOW!
IT'LL BE MUCH EASIER FOR THE GOLDBUG TO EXACT HIS REVENGE ON BRUCE BANNER, THAN ON THE HULK!
REVENGE? BUT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
IF NOT FOR THE MONSTER THAT'S INSIDE BANNER, I WOULD NEVER HAVE FOUND THIS PLACE... AND I'D STILL HAVE MY DREAMS. DREAMS ARE AN IMPORTANT THING TO A MAN... SOMETIMES THEY'RE ALL HE'S GOT.
BANNER COST ME MINE, AND I INTEND TO TAKE IT OUT OF HIS HIDE... PIECE BY PIECE!


BUT, IN THE TEMPLE...
YOUR REMARK ABOUT SUPER-BEINGS WAS QUITE AMUSING, DOCTOR...

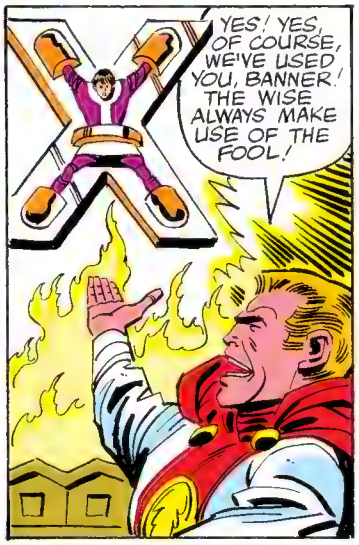
...ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THEY'VE BEEN SO USEFUL TO US IN RESTORING THE SACRED FLAME!
YOU WERE NOT THE FIRST TO BE USED BY THEY-WHO-WIELD-POWER! WE'VE HAD A NUMBER OF INTERESTING PAWNS AT OUR COMMAND! THE GOLDBUG, FOR INSTANCE, WHO UNWITTINGLY BROUGHT YOU TO US!


BUT MOST OF THEM WERE GUIDED INTO SCHEMES WHICH WOULD CAUSE VIOLENT GEOPHYSICAL ACTIVITY THAT COULD BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE EARTH'S CRUST IN SUCH A WAY TO STIMULATE THE POWER OF THE FLAME.
WHY, ONE OF OUR PAWNS WOULD HAVE SPLIT NEW YORK CITY ASUNDER WITH EARTHQUAKES, HAD NOT THE MAN-GOD HERCULES BRACED HIMSELF AGAINST THE CITY'S FOUNDATIONS AND ABSORBED THE GENERATED SHOCK-WAVES WITH HIS OWN IMMORTAL BODY.
OF COURSE, THE SON OF ZEUS HAS SINCE BOASTED OF HIS FEAT IN MORE GRANDIOSE TERMS, BUT NO MATTER! ALL OF THEM--MAN AND GODLING, HERO AND SCOUNDREL--HAVE BEEN BUT TOOLS IN THE HANDS OF OUR BROTHERHOOD!

YOU... YOU'RE SERIOUS!
YOU'VE BEEN USING US... TOYING WITH OUR LIVES LIKE WE'RE NOTHING! YOU FILTHY--!
THE CURSES CATCH IN BANNER'S THROAT, AS HE THRASHES ABOUT IN HIS BONDS-- AN ACTIVITY THAT DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED...


...FAR BELOW.
EXCELLENT! THE MORE PRINCE REY GOADS BANNER, THE MORE HIS ENERGY LEVELS BUILD! EVERYTHING GOES AS WE PLANNED!

YES, THAT'S IT, FAITHFUL KEEPER! MAKE YOUR ADJUSTMENTS CAREFULLY... AND IGNORE THE ACTIONS OF OLD DES. BEST YOU NOT SEE WHAT HE'S DOING!

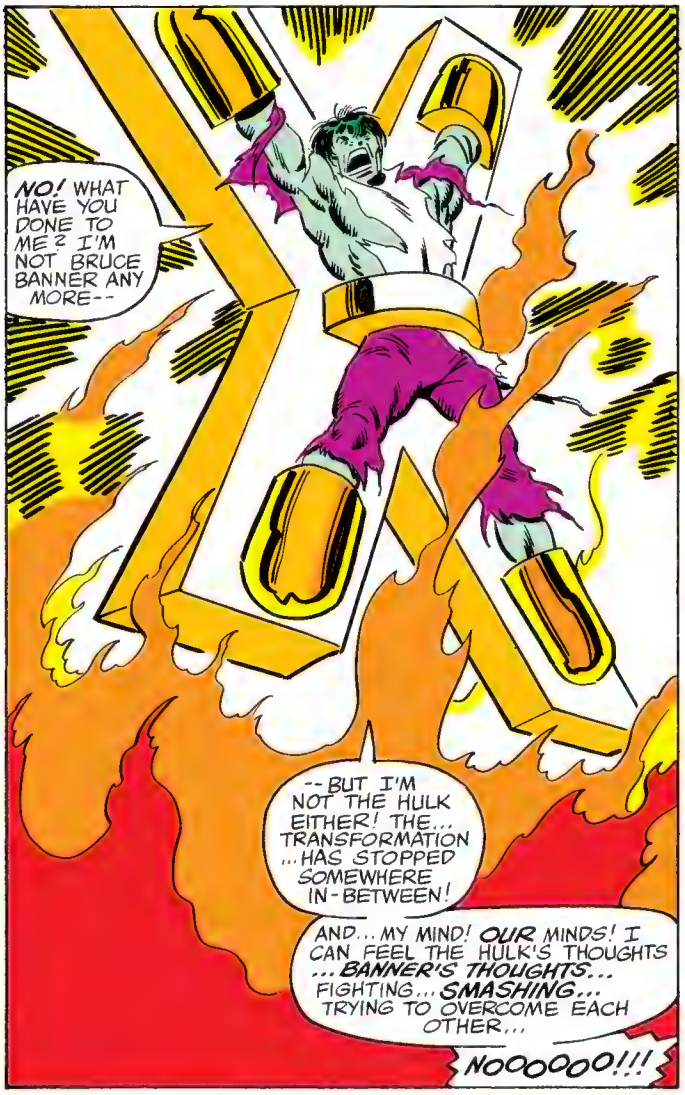

YES! YES, OF COURSE, WE'VE USED YOU, BANNER! THE WISE ALWAYS MAKE USE OF THE FOOL!

FOOL? FOOL?! YOU'LL SEE WHO'S THE FOOL! YOU'VE GOTTEN ME ANGRY, REY!

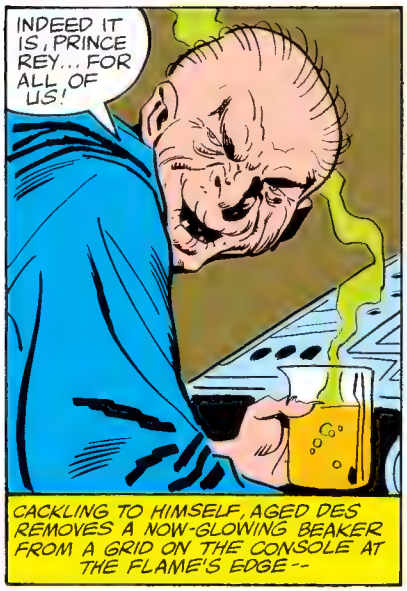
ANGRY, YOU HEAR? FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, I'VE FEARED MY ANGER ...BUT NOT NOW!
THIS TIME I WELCOME IT!

ANGER CHANGES ME, YOU IDIOTS--AND I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT IT!

BECAUSE AFTER WHAT I'VE SEEN HERE, I WANT TO BE THE HULK!
I WANT TO SMASH YOU ALL! I...I...

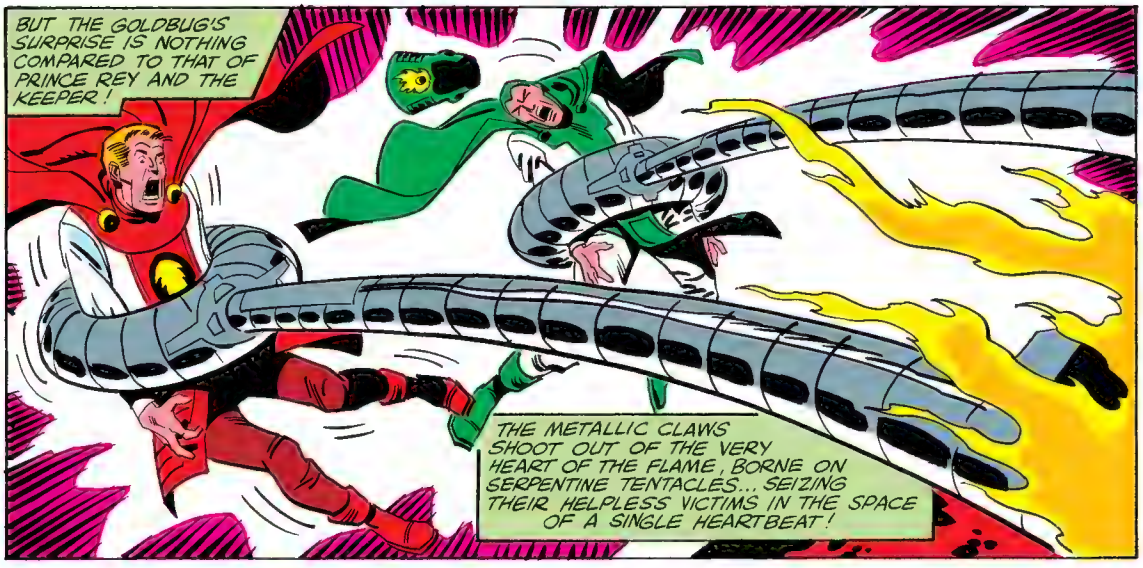

NO! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME? I'M NOT BRUCE BANNER ANY MORE--
--BUT I'M NOT THE HULK EITHER! THE... TRANSFORMATION ...HAS STOPPED SOMEWHERE IN-BETWEEN!
AND... MY MIND! OUR MINDS! I CAN FEEL THE HULK'S THOUGHTS ...BANNER'S THOUGHTS... FIGHTING... SMASHING... TRYING TO OVERCOME EACH OTHER...
NOOOOOO!!!

YOUR RAVINGS DO NOT CONCERN US, BANNER! HALF-A-HULK YOU SHALL REMAIN UNTIL YOUR LIFE FORCE IS FINALLY EMPTIED INTO THE FLAME!
KEEPER! THE POWER LEVEL OF THE FLAME IS PEAKING! THIS IS THE MOMENT OF THRUTH!

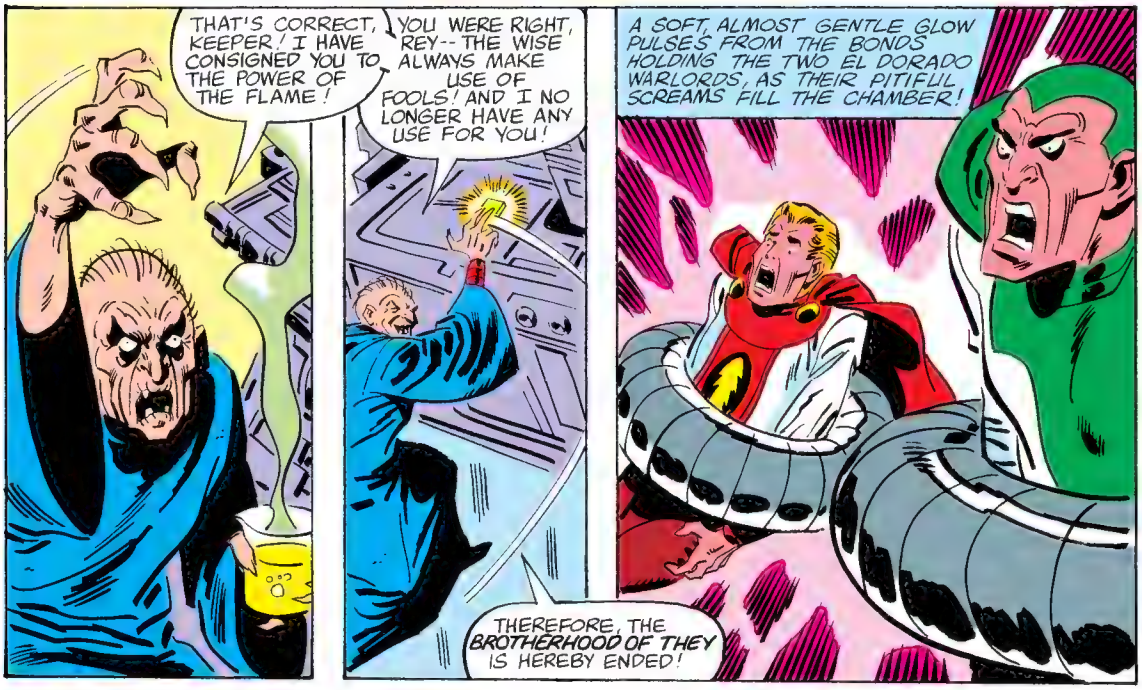

INDEED IT IS, PRINCE REY... FOR ALL OF US!
CACKLING TO HIMSELF, AGED DES REMOVES A NOW-GLOWING BEAKER FROM A GRID ON THE CONSOLE AT THE FLAME'S EDGE--

--AND MOVES TO ANOTHER SET OF CONTROLS, UNAWARE OF A NEW SPECTATOR'S ARRIVAL!
MY GOD, THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

FROM WHAT I'VE JUST HEARD, THE HULK AND I HAVE BOTH BEEN PAWNS IN SOME HUGE CONSPIRACY TO...
...OH, NO!


BUT THE GOLDBUG'S SURPRISE IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THAT OF PRINCE REY AND THE KEEPER!
THE METALLIC CLAWS SHOOT OUT OF THE VERY HEART OF THE FLAME, BORNE ON SERPENTINE TENTACLES... SEIZING THEIR HELPLESS VICTIMS IN THE SPACE OF A SINGLE HEARTBEAT!

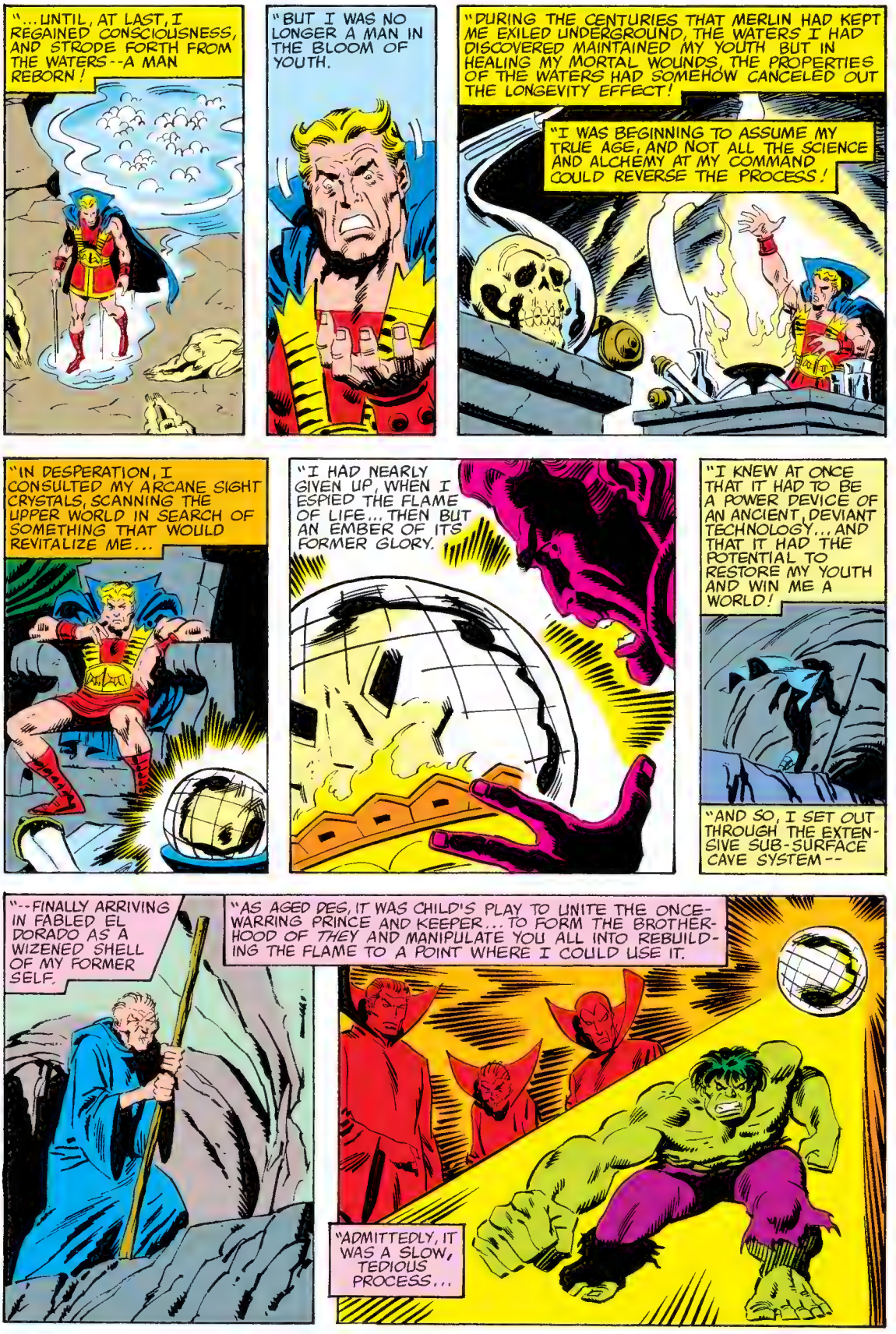
WHAT... IS HAPPENING? SO... HARD... TO THINK!
DES! THE POWER-CLAWS--! DO SOMETHING!
I-I FEAR HE ALREADY HAS!

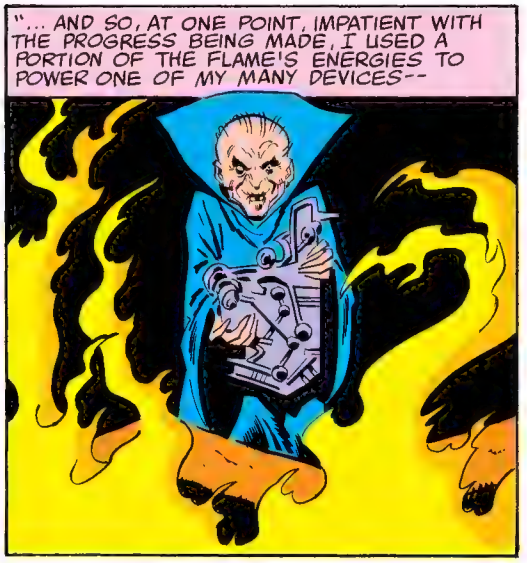

THAT'S CORRECT, KEEPER! I HAVE CONSIGNED YOU TO THE POWER OF THE FLAME!
YOU WERE RIGHT, REY-- THE WISE ALWAYS MAKE USE OF FOOLS! AND I NO LONGER HAVE ANY USE FOR YOU!
THEREFORE, THE BROTHERHOOD OF THEY IS HEREBY ENDED!
A SOFT, ALMOST GENTLE GLOW PULSES FROM THE BONDS HOLDING THE TWO EL DORADO WARLORDS, AS THEIR PITIFUL SCREAMS FILL THE CHAMBER!

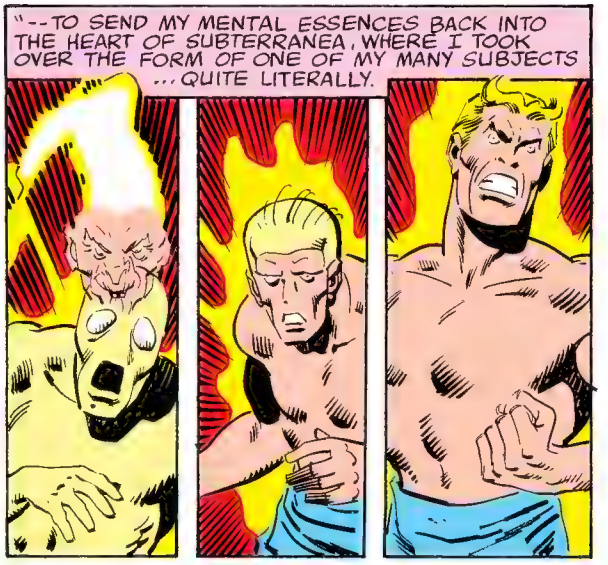
AND THEN...
UHN?
THIS CANNOT BE! WE WERE TO HAVE RULED THE WORLD... THE WORLD!
NO, REY... THAT NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED. DES... USED US... AS WE USED ALL THE OTHERS. I SEE THAT NOW!
AND NOW, HE IS USING US FOR THE FINAL TIME!
A CHOKING RATTLE ESCAPES PRINCE REY'S PALSIED LIPS IN REPLY... AS THE POWER-CLAWS LEECH AWAY THE TWO MEN'S VERY LIFE FORCES--
--AGING THEM IN AN INSTANT... TO SENILITY ... TO DEATH... TO DUST.
YOU... KILLED THEM! WHY? WHY?
BECAUSE THEY WERE CHILDREN, PLAYING WITH A POWER THEY HAD NOT THE RIGHT TO POSSESS! ONLY ONE SUCH AS I HAS THAT RIGHT!
NOW THE POWER IS ALL MINE... MINE TO USE AS I PLEASE!
TO PERFORM SUCH MIRACLES AS THE RESTORATION OF MY ELIXER...
...MY BLESSED ELIXER!
WITH A LOOK APPROACHING ECSTACY, THE WIZENED ANCIENT POURS THE FROTHING LIQUID DOWN HIS THROAT...

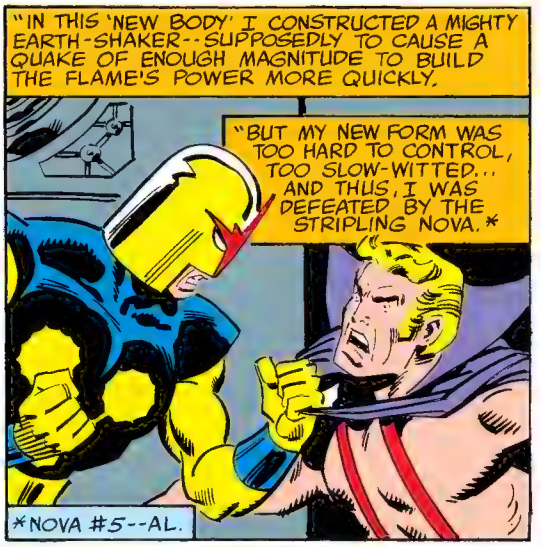
YAAAHH! IT ...BURNS! BURNS!
YES...YES, BUT IT IS THE YEARS THAT BURN AWAY...THE AGES! AT LAST, AT LONG LAST, I FEEL THE STRENGTH RETURN TO MY BONES!
THE LAST DECEPTION IS OVER! AGED DES IS NO MORE! FOR NOW--
--TYRANNUS LIVES AGAIN!
TYRANNUS... TIMELESS FOE OF THE SORCERER MERLIN... SUPREME OVERLORD OF THE SUBTERRANEAN REGIONS ...AND RIGHTFUL EMPEROR OF THE EARTH!
YOU... YOU... RARRGH!!
REALLY, MY OLD FOE-- IS A BESTIAL GROWL THE BEST YOU CAN DO FOR THE MAN WHO HAS FINALLY RENDERED YOU HELPLESS? EH?
TYRANNUS...YOU... MURDERER! WHAT YOU HAVE DONE IS UNSPEAKABLE... UNSPEAKABLE!

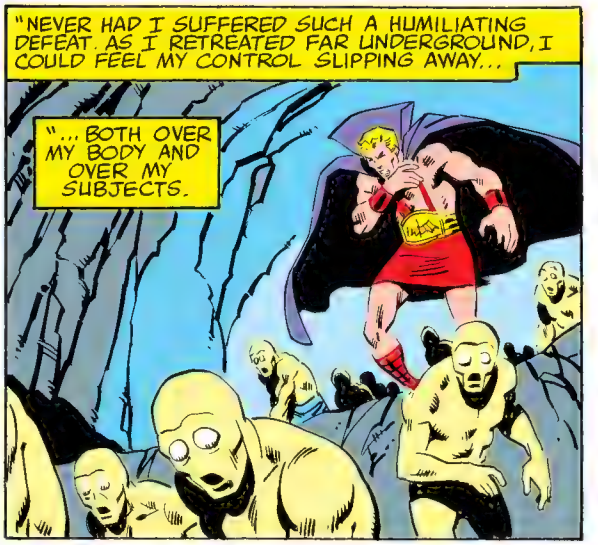
UNSPEAKABLE? ON THE CONTRARY, IN AGES TO COME, MEN WILL COME TO SPEAK OF THIS DAY--MY DAY OF TRIUMPH--WITH AWE!
AND WHAT IS MOST IRONIC IS THAT MY ULTIMATE VICTORY WAS TRIGGERED BY A DEFEAT!
"IT WAS MY IMPENDING CAPTURE BY THE CURSED FANTASTIC FOUR THAT FORCED ME TO FLEE INTO THE HEART OF THE SUBTERRANEAN REGIONS IN THE MAGMA-CRUISER OF MY HATED RIVAL, THE MOLE MAN!*
"BUT I HAD FAILED TO FULLY RECKON WITH THE WILES OF THE PERFIDIOUS MOLE MAN--
*F.F. #128--AL.
"--FOR, AS I DISCOVERED TO MY SHOCK, HIS CONVENIENT ESCAPE VEHICLE--
"--WAS RIGGED TO EXPLODE IF OPERATED BY ANY OTHER THAN HIMSELF!
"BY SOME MIRACLE, I WAS THROWN FREE OF THE WRECKAGE. BUT I LAID BROKEN AND DYING IN THE FAR REACHES OF THE GREAT UNDERGROUND CAVERNS FOR PRECIOUS HOURS...
"...UNTIL I WAS FOUND BY A LOYAL BAND OF MY SUBTERRANEAN SUBJECTS...
"NOTING THE SERIOUSNESS OF MY INJURIES, THEY BROUGHT MY COMATOSE FORM TO THE HIDDEN POOL THAT WAS THE SOURCE OF MY YOUTH AND VITALITY--
"--THE LEGENDARY FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH!
"FOR DAYS THEY TENDED TO ME, KEEPING ME ALL BUT TOTALLY IMMERSED IN THE HEALING WATERS OF THE BUBBLING POOL...

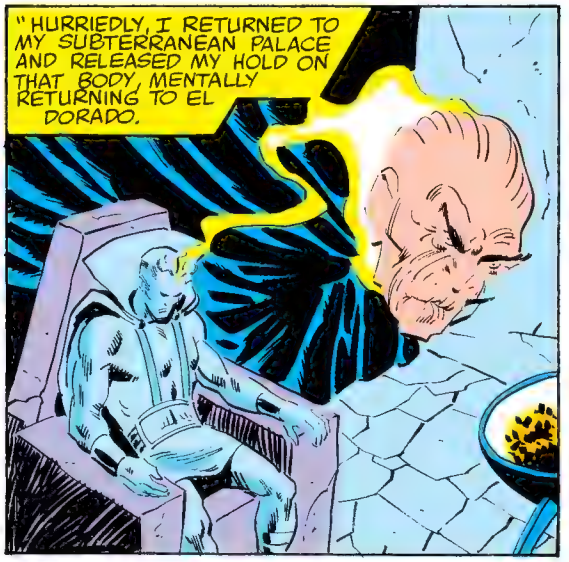

"...UNTIL, AT LAST, I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, AND STRODE FORTH FROM THE WATERS--A MAN REBORN!
"BUT I WAS NO LONGER A MAN IN THE BLOOM OF YOUTH.
"DURING THE CENTURIES THAT MERLIN HAD KEPT ME EXILED UNDERGROUND, THE WATERS I HAD DISCOVERED MAINTAINED MY YOUTH BUT IN HEALING MY MORTAL WOUNDS, THE PROPERTIES OF THE WATERS HAD SOMEHOW CANCELED OUT THE LONGEVITY EFFECT!
"I WAS BEGINNING TO ASSUME MY TRUE AGE, AND NOT ALL THE SCIENCE AND ALCHEMY AT MY COMMAND COULD REVERSE THE PROCESS!
"IN DESPERATION, I CONSULTED MY ARCANE SIGHT CRYSTALS, SCANNING THE UPPER WORLD IN SEARCH OF SOMETHING THAT WOULD REVITALIZE ME...
"I HAD NEARLY GIVEN UP, WHEN I ESPIED THE FLAME OF LIFE... THEN BUT AN EMBER OF ITS FORMER GLORY.
"I KNEW AT ONCE THAT IT HAD TO BE A POWER DEVICE OF AN ANCIENT, DEVIANT TECHNOLOGY... AND THAT IT HAD THE POTENTIAL TO RESTORE MY YOUTH AND WIN ME A WORLD!
"AND SO, I SET OUT THROUGH THE EXTENSIVE SUB-SURFACE CAVE SYSTEM--
"--FINALLY ARRIVING IN FABLED EL DORADO AS A WIZENED SHELL OF MY FORMER SELF.
"AS AGED DES, IT WAS CHILD'S PLAY TO UNITE THE ONCE-WARRING PRINCE AND KEEPER... TO FORM THE BROTHERHOOD OF *THEY* AND MANIPULATE YOU ALL INTO REBUILDING THE FLAME TO A POINT WHERE I COULD USE IT.
"ADMITTEDLY, IT WAS A SLOW, TEDIOUS PROCESS...

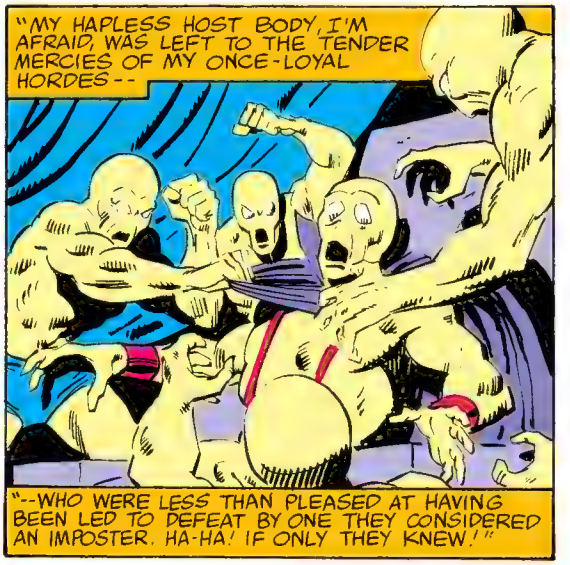

"... AND SO, AT ONE POINT, IMPATIENT WITH THE PROGRESS BEING MADE, I USED A PORTION OF THE FLAME'S ENERGIES TO POWER ONE OF MY MANY DEVICES--

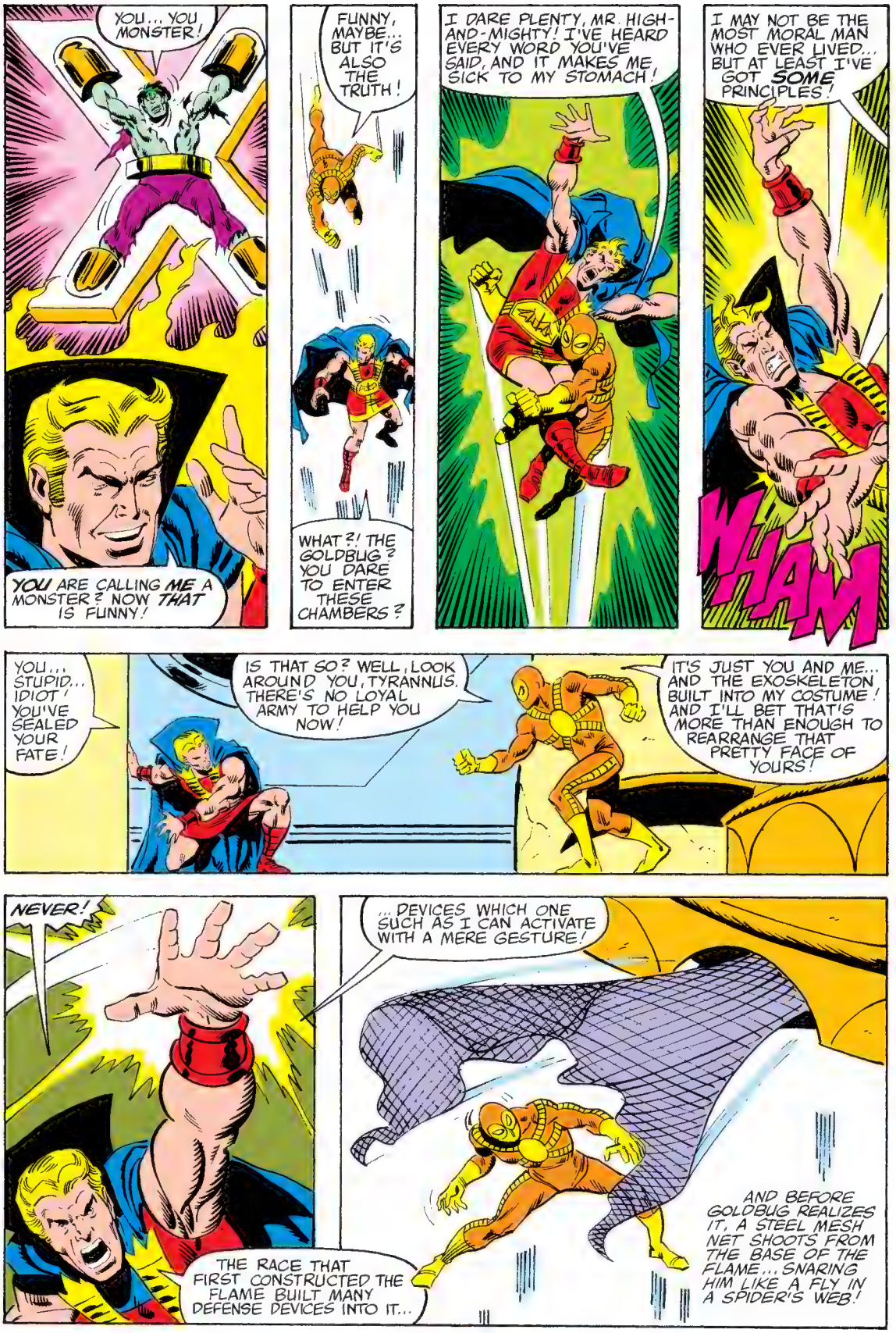

"--TO SEND MY MENTAL ESSENCES BACK INTO THE HEART OF SUBTERRANEA, WHERE I TOOK OVER THE FORM OF ONE OF MY MANY SUBJECTS ...QUITE LITERALLY.

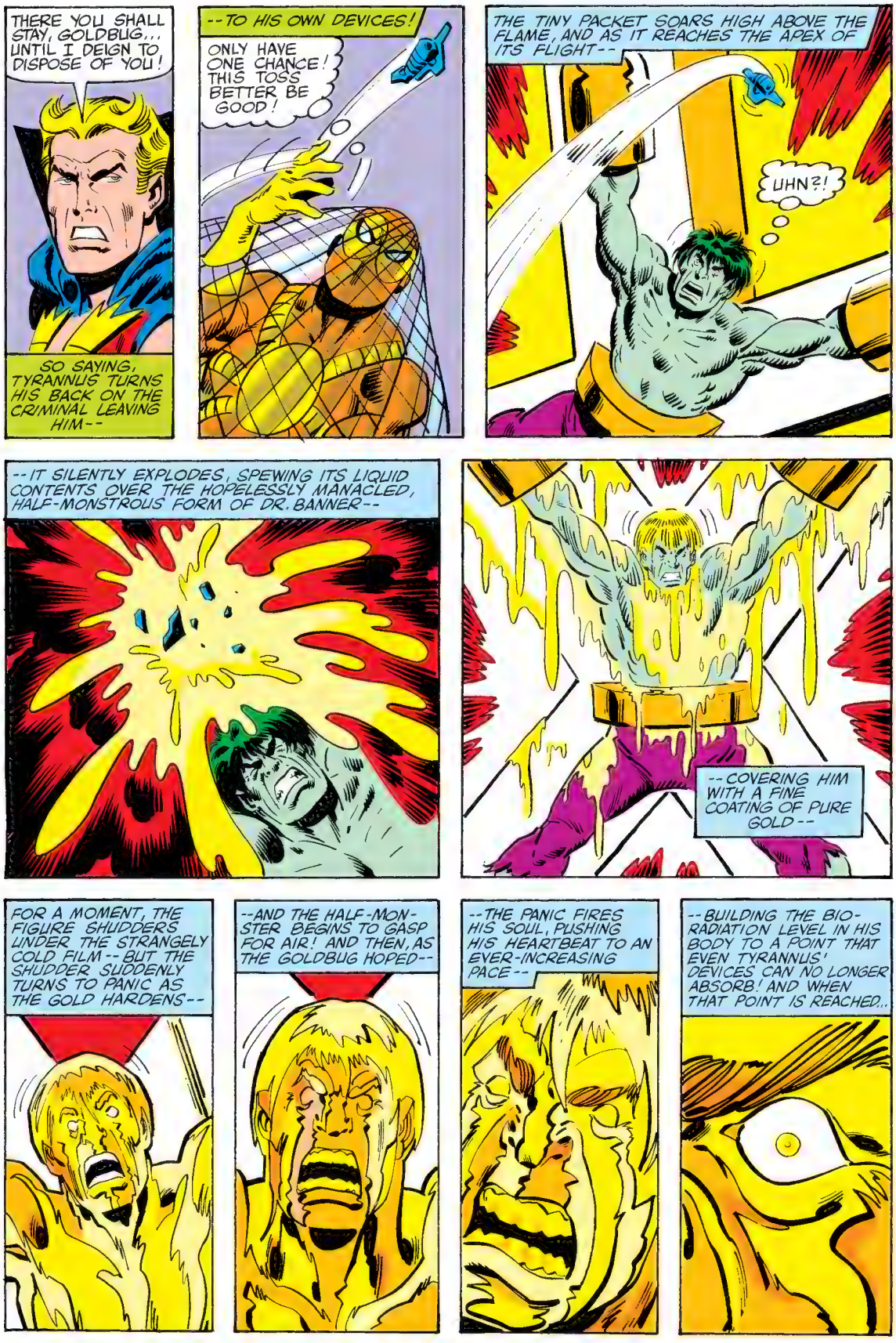

"IN THIS 'NEW BODY' I CONSTRUCTED A MIGHTY EARTH-SHAKER--SUPPOSEDLY TO CAUSE A QUAKE OF ENOUGH MAGNITUDE TO BUILD THE FLAME'S POWER MORE QUICKLY.
"BUT MY NEW FORM WAS TOO HARD TO CONTROL, TOO SLOW-WITTED... AND THUS, I WAS DEFEATED BY THE STRIPLING NOVA.*
*NOVA #5--AL.


"NEVER HAD I SUFFERED SUCH A HUMILIATING DEFEAT. AS I RETREATED FAR UNDERGROUND, I COULD FEEL MY CONTROL SLIPPING AWAY...
"... BOTH OVER MY BODY AND OVER MY SUBJECTS.


"HURRIEDLY, I RETURNED TO MY SUBTERRANEAN PALACE AND RELEASED MY HOLD ON THAT BODY, MENTALLY RETURNING TO EL DORADO.


"MY HAPLESS HOST BODY, I'M AFRAID, WAS LEFT TO THE TENDER MERCIES OF MY ONCE-LOYAL HORDES--
"--WHO WERE LESS THAN PLEASED AT HAVING BEEN LED TO DEFEAT BY ONE THEY CONSIDERED AN IMPOSTER. HA-HA! IF ONLY THEY KNEW!"


YOU... YOU MONSTER!
YOU ARE CALLING ME A MONSTER? NOW THAT IS FUNNY!
FUNNY, MAYBE... BUT IT'S ALSO THE TRUTH!
WHAT?! THE GOLDBUG? YOU DARE TO ENTER THESE CHAMBERS?
I DARE PLENTY, MR. HIGH-AND-MIGHTY! I'VE HEARD EVERY WORD YOU'VE SAID, AND IT MAKES ME SICK TO MY STOMACH!
I MAY NOT BE THE MOST MORAL MAN WHO EVER LIVED... BUT AT LEAST I'VE GOT SOME PRINCIPLES!
WHAM
YOU... STUPID... IDIOT! YOU'VE SEALED YOUR FATE!
IS THAT SO? WELL, LOOK AROUND YOU, TYRANNUS. THERE'S NO LOYAL ARMY TO HELP YOU NOW!
IT'S JUST YOU AND ME... AND THE EXOSKELETON BUILT INTO MY COSTUME! AND I'LL BET THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO REARRANGE THAT PRETTY FACE OF YOURS!
NEVER!
THE RACE THAT FIRST CONSTRUCTED THE FLAME BUILT MANY DEFENSE DEVICES INTO IT...
... DEVICES WHICH ONE SUCH AS I CAN ACTIVATE WITH A MERE GESTURE!
AND BEFORE GOLDBUG REALIZES IT, A STEEL MESH NET SHOOTS FROM THE BASE OF THE FLAME... SNARING HIM LIKE A FLY IN A SPIDER'S WEB!


THERE YOU SHALL STAY, GOLDBUG... UNTIL I DEIGN TO DISPOSE OF YOU!
SO SAYING, TYRANNUS TURNS HIS BACK ON THE CRIMINAL LEAVING HIM--
--TO HIS OWN DEVICES!
ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE! THIS TOSS BETTER BE GOOD!
THE TINY PACKET SOARS HIGH ABOVE THE FLAME, AND AS IT REACHES THE APEX OF ITS FLIGHT--
UHN?!
--IT SILENTLY EXPLODES, SPEWING ITS LIQUID CONTENTS OVER THE HOPELESSLY MANACLED, HALF-MONSTROUS FORM OF DR. BANNER--
--COVERING HIM WITH A FINE COATING OF PURE GOLD--
FOR A MOMENT, THE FIGURE SHUDDERS UNDER THE STRANGELY COLD FILM -- BUT THE SHUDDER SUDDENLY TURNS TO PANIC AS THE GOLD HARDENS--
--AND THE HALF-MONSTER BEGINS TO GASP FOR AIR! AND THEN, AS THE GOLDBUG HOPED--
--THE PANIC FIRES HIS SOUL, PUSHING HIS HEARTBEAT TO AN EVER-INCREASING PACE--
--BUILDING THE BIO-RADIATION LEVEL IN HIS BODY TO A POINT THAT EVEN TYRANNUS' DEVICES CAN NO LONGER ABSORB! AND WHEN THAT POINT IS REACHED..

--THE INCREDIBLE HULK BREAKS FREE!!
TYRANNUS! YOU USED THE HULK!
AND THE HULK HATES THAT!
THOOM
I HAVE ALWAYS USED YOU, HULK... AND I ALWAYS SHALL!
NO! NO MORE! HULK WILL SMASH--!
IGNORANT BRUTE! YOU'LL FAIR NO BETTER THAN DID THE GOLDBUG!
WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, I BECOME MORE IN TUNE WITH THE WORKINGS OF THE FLAME!
AS I WISH... SO DOES IT ACT!
AARRGH!
MOVING WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF THOUGHT, A BOLT OF PURE ENERGY BLASTS OUT AT THE CHARGING HULK--

--LITERALLY BLOWING HIM THROUGH THE WALL OF THE TEMPLE AND INTO THE GRAND PLAZA OF EL DORADO!
BAWHOOM
HULK, IT IS I-- TULAK THE ACOLYTE! WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHAT OF THEY--?
THEY ARE DEAD, OLD ONE! AND WHEN HULK GETS HIS HANDS ON THEIR KILLER--!
BUT BEFORE THE BEHEMOTH CAN FINISH HIS THREAT, THE GROUND BENEATH EL DORADO ROCKS WITH A MIGHTY FORCE! AND THEN...
LET THE TEMPLE SPLIT OPEN... LET THE SACRED FLAME RISE! LET ALL WHO STAND BEFORE ME PLEDGE THEIR TOTAL OBEDIENCE TO MY WILL! FOR I AM THE FLAME AND IT IS ME!
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, LET ALL BOW BEFORE THE SUPREME POWER OF TYRANNUS... NOW AND FOREVER MORE, ABSOLUTE MONARCH OF THE PLANET EARTH!
NEXT
SIC SEMPER TYRANNUS!

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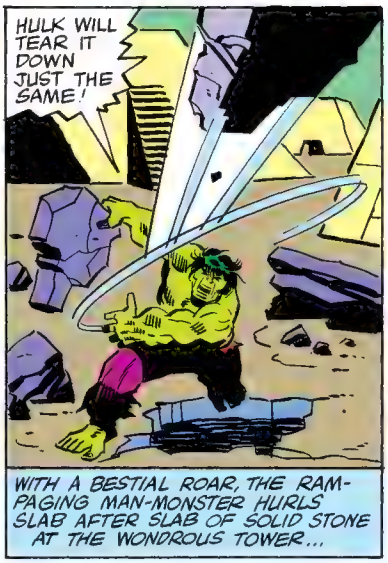
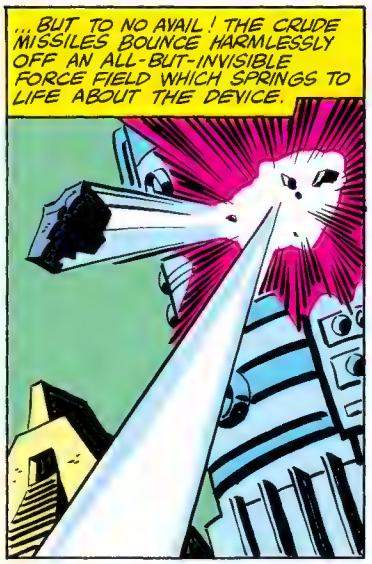
THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!
SIC SEMPER TYRANNUS!
BOB LAYTON

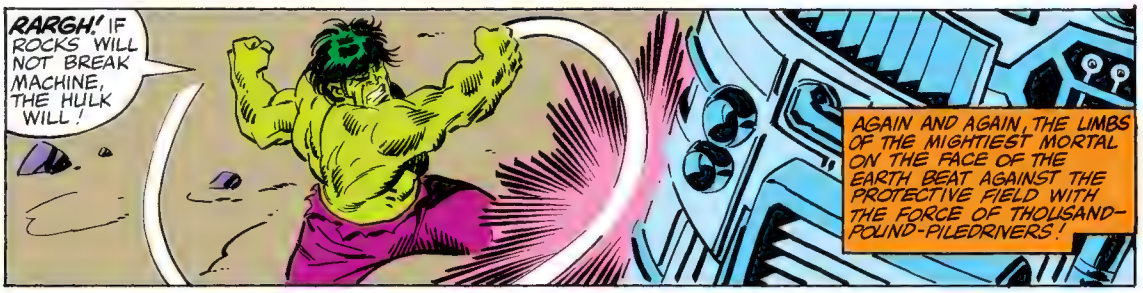
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK AT THE MERCY OF HIS GREATEST FOE!
"SIC SEMPER TYRANNUS!"
THEY-WHO-WIELD-POWER ... THE RULING TRIUMVIRATE OF THE HIDDEN CITY OF EL DORADO... IS NO MORE! TWO OF ITS MEMBERS LIE IN ASHES, VICTIMS OF THE THIRD -- A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE WHO NOW STANDS REVEALED AS TYRANNUS!
TYRANNUS -- THE AGELESS WARLORD OF ANTIQUITY... RULER OF A KINGDOM BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH... ARCH-FOE OF BOTH THE FABLED SORCERER MERLIN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
HEAR ME, PEOPLE OF EL DORADO! I, TYRANNUS THE FIRST, NOW CONTROL YOUR SACRED FLAME OF LIFE! I AM ONE WITH ITS POWER... IT MOVES AT MY VERY COMMAND!
AND, AT MY COMMAND, IT SHALL MAKE ME SUPREME RULER OF THE WORLD! NOW, NO ONE CAN STOP ME!
YOU LIE, TYRANNUS! HULK WILL STOP YOU! HULK WILL SMASH YOU INTO DIRT!
ROGER STERN WROTE IT! SAL BUSCEMA DREW IT! JIM NOVAK LETTERED IT! GLYNIS WEIN COLORED IT! ALLEN MILGROM EDITED IT! JIM SHOOTER SIGNED THE VOUCHERS!
LG576

YOU BROUGHT HULK HERE TO STEAL HIS STRENGTH FOR YOUR FIRE -- BUT YOU FAILED!
THRAK
HULK IS STILL THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!
AND HULK WILL SMASH YOUR PUNY HILL TO BITS!
WRAKK
TERRIFIED BY THE BATTLE THAT HAS ERUPTED IN THEIR LEGENDARY CITY, THE PEOPLE OF EL DORADO COWER BEFORE THE GREEN-SKINNED BEHEMOTH'S RAGE...
...A RAGE WHICH SWIFTLY GIVES WAY TO SURPRISE!
UNH?
THIS IS NO HILL! UNDER THE ROCK... IT IS A MACHINE!

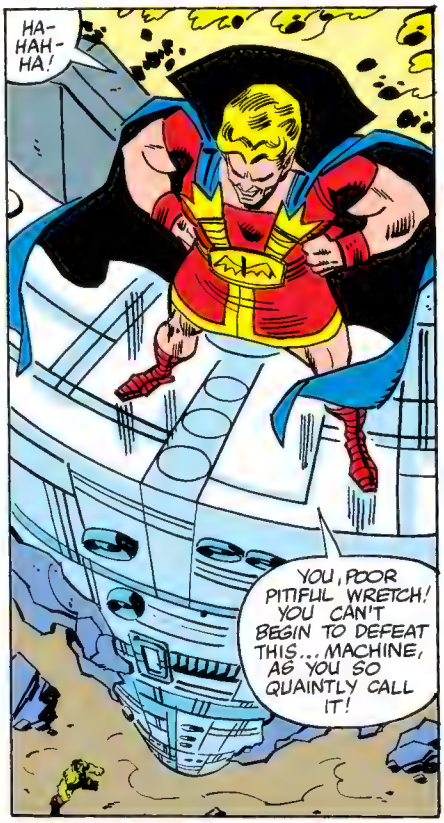
BAH! HILL OR MACHINE... IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO THE HULK!


HULK WILL TEAR IT DOWN JUST THE SAME!
WITH A BESTIAL ROAR, THE RAMPAGING MAN-MONSTER HURLS SLAB AFTER SLAB OF SOLID STONE AT THE WONDROUS TOWER...


...BUT TO NO AVAIL! THE CRUDE MISSILES BOUNCE HARMLESSLY OFF AN ALL-BUT-INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD WHICH SPRINGS TO LIFE ABOUT THE DEVICE.


RARGH! IF ROCKS WILL NOT BREAK MACHINE, THE HULK WILL!
AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE LIMBS OF THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH BEAT AGAINST THE PROTECTIVE FIELD WITH THE FORCE OF THOUSAND-POUND-PILEDRIVERS!

BUT...
MACHINE IS NOT EVEN SCRATCHED! HOW CAN THAT BE?
HOW?!


HA-HAH-HA!
YOU, POOR PITIFUL WRETCH! YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO DEFEAT THIS... MACHINE, AS YOU SO QUAINTLY CALL IT!

IT IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE FLAME OF LIFE--
--FORGED EONS AGO BY A RACE OF DEVIANTS* WHO MAY STILL DWELL 'NEATH EARTH AND SEA! IT WAS BUILT TO CHALLENGE A MENACE FROM BEYOND THE STARS... AND AGAINST ITS POWER, YOU ARE HELPLESS!
*SEE JACK KIRBY'S ETERNALS SERIES, AND RECENT ISSUES OF THOR --AL.

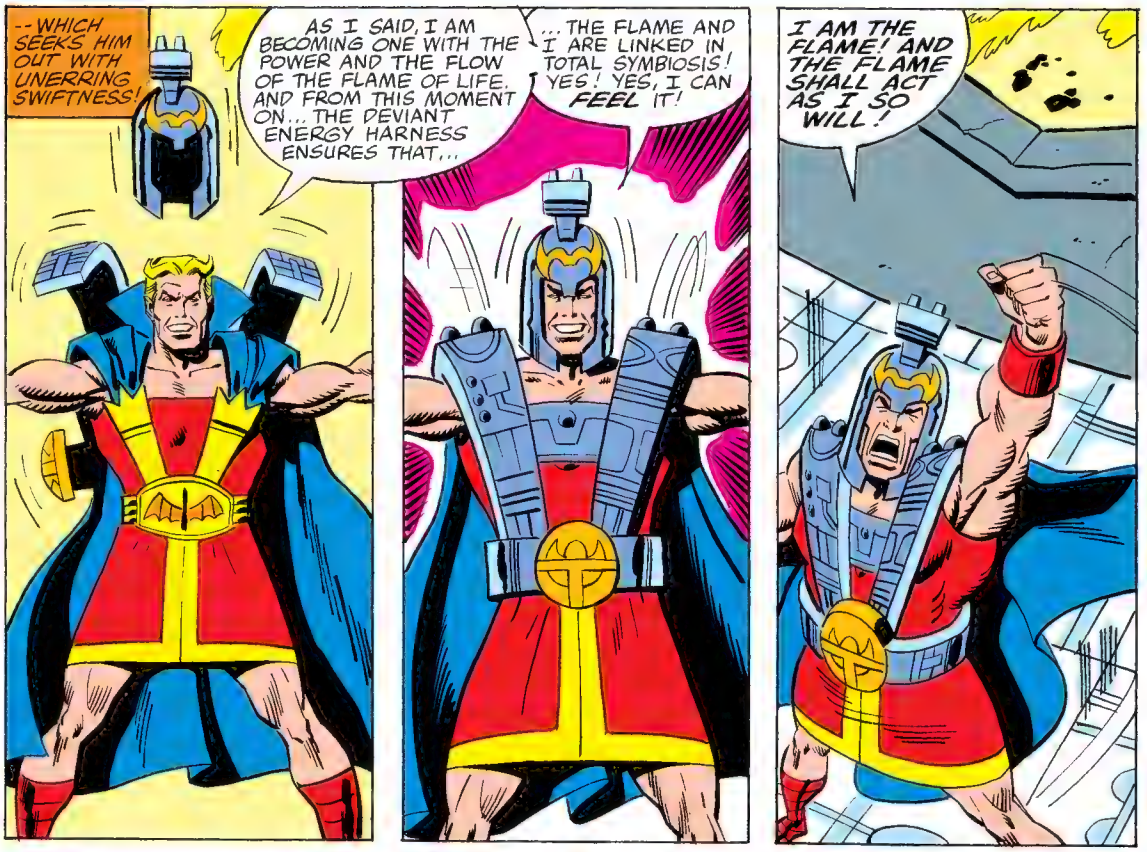
AS HELPLESS AS THIS CRIMINAL, THIS SELF-STYLED GOLDBUG! JUST AS I USED HIM TO BRING YOU TO EL DORADO--AS I USED THE GAMMA-RADIATION WITHIN YOUR VERY BODY TO STOKE THE SACRED FLAME --SO SHALL I USE THE FLAME TO CLAIM A WORLD!
INCREDIBLE! THIS TYRANNUS DWELT AMONG US UNDETECTED--AND NOW HE CLAIMS OUR MOST SACRED OBJECT TO USE AS A WEAPON!
TULAK, YOU ARE THE ELDEST OF THE HIGH ACOLYTES... IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?
I... DO NOT KNOW, MY FRIEND!
BUT, THOUGH THE EL DORADOANS ARE ARE AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO, THERE IS ONE WHO IS NOT!
HELPLESS?! NO! HULK IS NEVER HELPLESS! NEVER!
YOU HAVE FACED THE HULK BEFORE, TYRANNUS!
YOU KNOW THAT THE HULK CANNOT BE STOPPED!
THAT WAS TRUE BEFORE-- BUT I DID NOT HAVE THE POWER OF THE FLAME THEN!
IT IS MORE THAN ANY MERE FIRE... ITS FIERY ENERGIES CAN PERFORM MIRACLES FOR ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO USE THEM... SUCH AS FORMING A FORCE FIELD AT A MERE GESTURE!

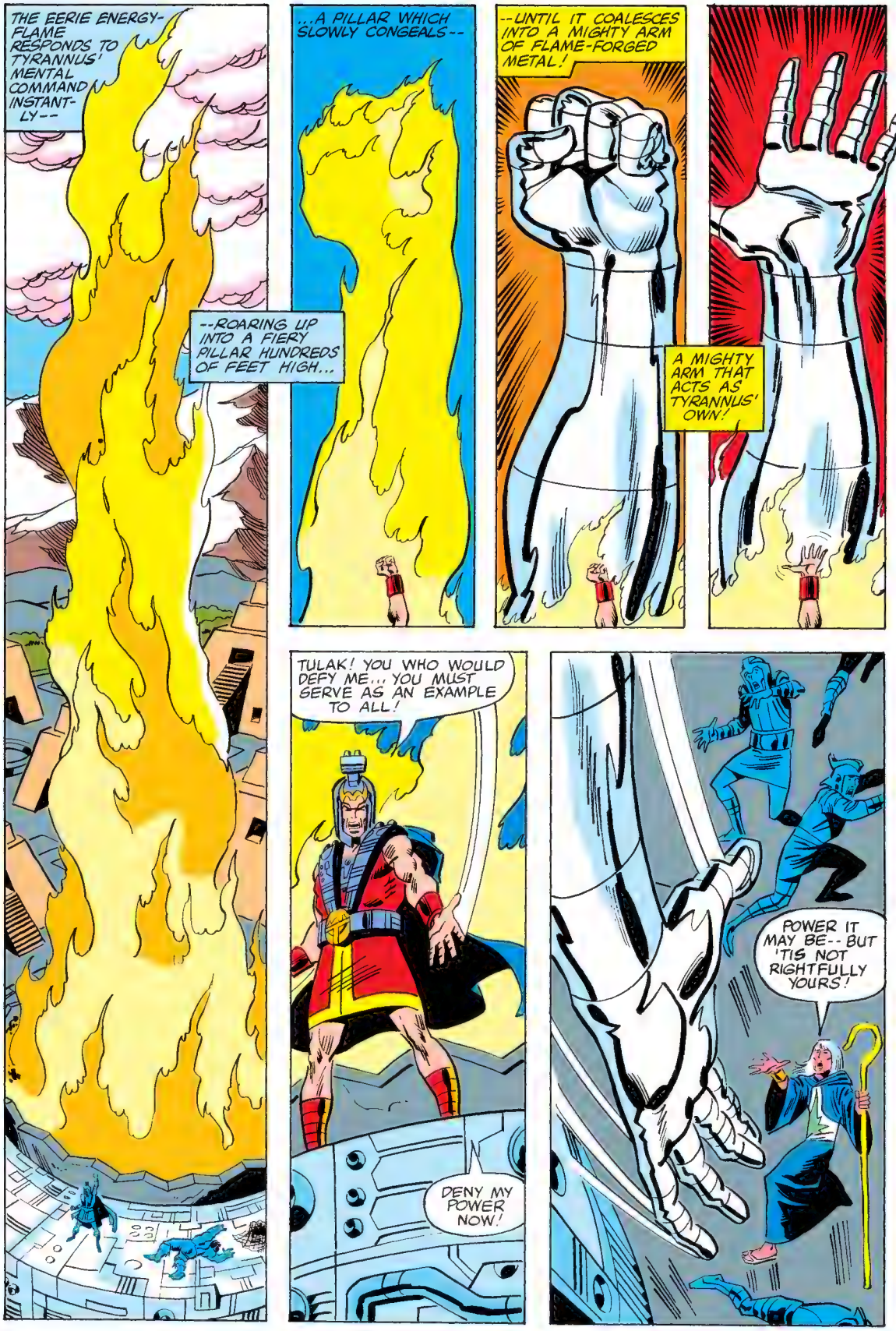
HA-HA! YOU ARE DOOMED HULK! A MONSTER SPAWNED BY MAN'S EXPERIMENTS WITH GAMMA RAYS DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST DEVIANT TECHNOLOGY!
NO! NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP THE HULK! NOTHING!
THAT SOMETHING--ANYTHING--COULD GRIP HOLD OF AN ENERGY FIELD SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE! BUT THE HULK GRABS HOLD JUST THE SAME!
THE FIELD BEGINS TO STRETCH LIKE A PHYSICAL THING IN HIS GRASP--
--AS HE PUSHES AND PULLS WITH EVER-INCREASING MIGHT, UNTIL--
BBEEE
EEOOO
--THE BARRIER COLLAPSES!
NOW WE WILL SEE WHO IS STRONGER!
YOU--YOU COULDN'T HAVE--! THE FLAME--! IF IT SHOULD FAIL ME--!
ABRUPTLY, THE WARLORD STIFFENS, HIS PANIC GIVING WAY TO AN EERIE CALM...
NO, THE FLAME WILL NOT FAIL. I... SEE THAT NOW.

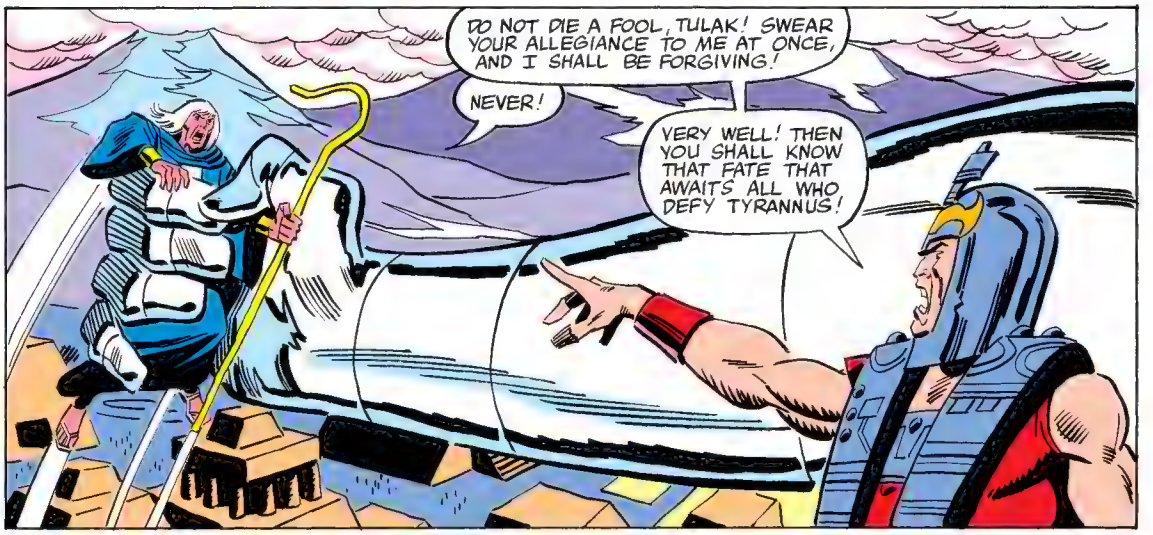
AND WITH A MEASURED, ALMOST INSTINCTIVE MOVE, TYRANNUS STEPS DOWN HARD ON A CERTAIN SECTION OF THE TOWER FLOOR...
KLAK
BAH! FLAME WILL NOT HELP YOU NOW!
WRONG AGAIN, HULK! THE DEVIANTS DEVELOPED COUNTLESS DEFENSE SYSTEMS FOR THE FLAME... SUCH AS THIS!
AS SUDDENLY AS TYRANNUS' GESTURE, A TURRET POPS OPEN, INSTANTLY PEPPERING THE HULK WITH A HAIL OF MINIATURE MISSILES!
BULLETS?! YOU ATTACK THE HULK WITH BULLETS?
BULLETS CAN'T STOP THE HULK--
--THEY ONLY MAKE HULK...
WUMM
...MAD?

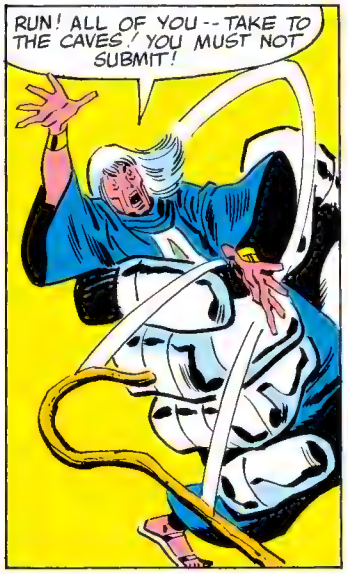
BUFFOON! OF COURSE, THE DEVIANTS DID NOT USE MERE BULLETS TO PROTECT THEIR DEVICES!
NO, THE POWER TURRETS FIRE A MUCH MORE EXOTIC PROJECTILE...
...A LITTLE THING CALLED A BRAIN MINE-- WHICH SIMPLY PUTS YOUR MIND TO SLEEP!
HOW I HAVE LONGED FOR THIS DAY, YOU LUMBERING OAF!
NOW YOU ARE TRULY, TOTALLY HELPLESS! NOW MY REVENGE... FOR ALL THE PREVIOUS DEFEATS YOU HANDED ME... IS COMPLETE!
PEOPLE OF EL DORADO! YOU HAVE SEEN THE HULK FALL BEFORE THE POWER OF TYRANNUS! SO, TOO, SHALL FALL A WORLD!
PLEDGE NOW YOUR TOTAL ALLEGIANCE TO ME... AND YOU SHALL BE FIRST AND HIGHEST OF ALL MY SUBJECTS!
NEVER! THE POWER YOU WIELD IS POWER USURPED! YOU ARE AN INVADER... WE SHALL NEVER BOW DOWN BEFORE YOU!

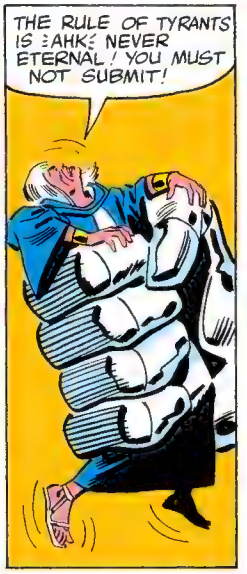
OH? SHALL YOU RUN--AS YOUR INCAN ANCESTORS FLED THE SPANISH CONQUISTADORES?
THE FOUNDERS OF EL DORADO FLED BECAUSE THEY HAD NO WAY TO FIGHT A SUPERIOR FORCE... BUT WE CAN RESIST YOU!
THE FLAME OF LIFE IS NOT SELF-SUSTAINING! WE SHALL DENY YOU FUEL TO KEEP IT BURNING!
TULAK, I DO NOT NEED YOUR MEAGER AID TO FUEL THE FLAME!
NOR AM I A USURPER! I MOVE AS THE FLAME DIRECTS ME... LIKE SO!
AND, TREADING HARD UPON ANOTHER PART OF THE FLOOR, TYRANNUS RELEASES A MIGHTY WAR HARNESS--

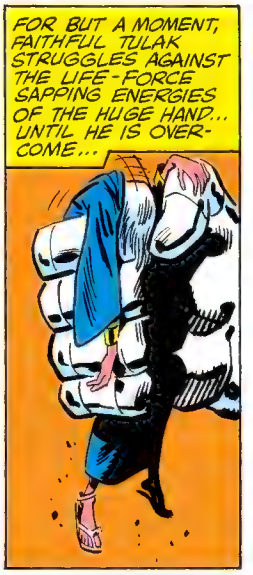

--WHICH SEEKS HIM OUT WITH UNERRING SWIFTNESS!
AS I SAID, I AM BECOMING ONE WITH THE POWER AND THE FLOW OF THE FLAME OF LIFE. AND FROM THIS MOMENT ON... THE DEVIANT ENERGY HARNESS ENSURES THAT...
...THE FLAME AND I ARE LINKED IN TOTAL SYMBIOSIS! YES! YES, I CAN FEEL IT!
I AM THE FLAME! AND THE FLAME SHALL ACT AS I SO WILL!

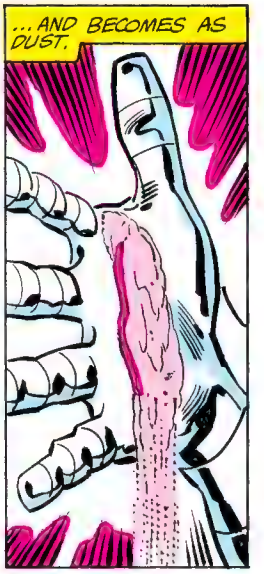

THE EERIE ENERGY-FLAME RESPONDS TO TYRANNUS' MENTAL COMMAND INSTANT-LY--
--ROARING UP INTO A FIERY PILLAR HUNDREDS OF FEET HIGH...
...A PILLAR WHICH SLOWLY CONGEALS--
--UNTIL IT COALESCES INTO A MIGHTY ARM OF FLAME-FORGED METAL!
A MIGHTY ARM THAT ACTS AS TYRANNUS' OWN!
TULAK! YOU WHO WOULD DEFY ME... YOU MUST SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO ALL!
DENY MY POWER NOW!
POWER IT MAY BE-- BUT 'TIS NOT RIGHTFULLY YOURS!


DO NOT DIE A FOOL, TULAK! SWEAR YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO ME AT ONCE, AND I SHALL BE FORGIVING!
NEVER!
VERY WELL! THEN YOU SHALL KNOW THAT FATE THAT AWAITS ALL WHO DEFY TYRANNUS!

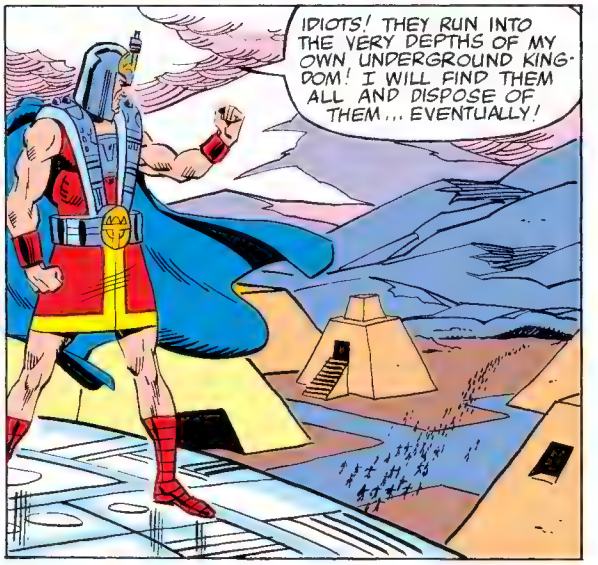

RUN! ALL OF YOU -- TAKE TO THE CAVES! YOU MUST NOT SUBMIT!

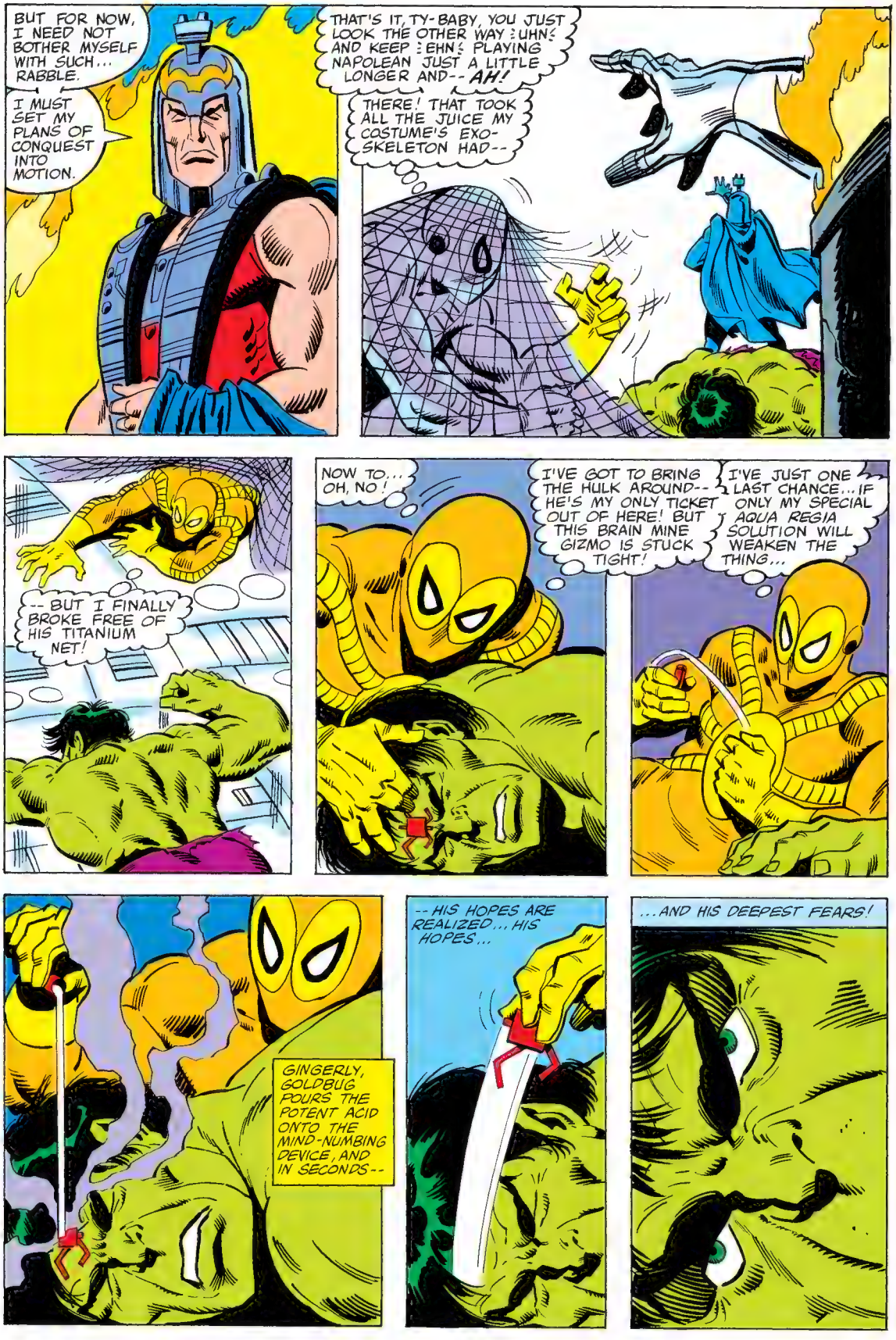

THE RULE OF TYRANTS IS :AHK: NEVER ETERNAL! YOU MUST NOT SUBMIT!


FOR BUT A MOMENT, FAITHFUL TULAK STRUGGLES AGAINST THE LIFE-FORCE SAPPING ENERGIES OF THE HUGE HAND... UNTIL HE IS OVER-COME...


...AND BECOMES AS DUST.

HEED THE WORDS OF TULAK! FLEE... FLEE TO THE CAVES!


IDIOTS! THEY RUN INTO THE VERY DEPTHS OF MY OWN UNDERGROUND KING-DOM! I WILL FIND THEM ALL AND DISPOSE OF THEM... EVENTUALLY!

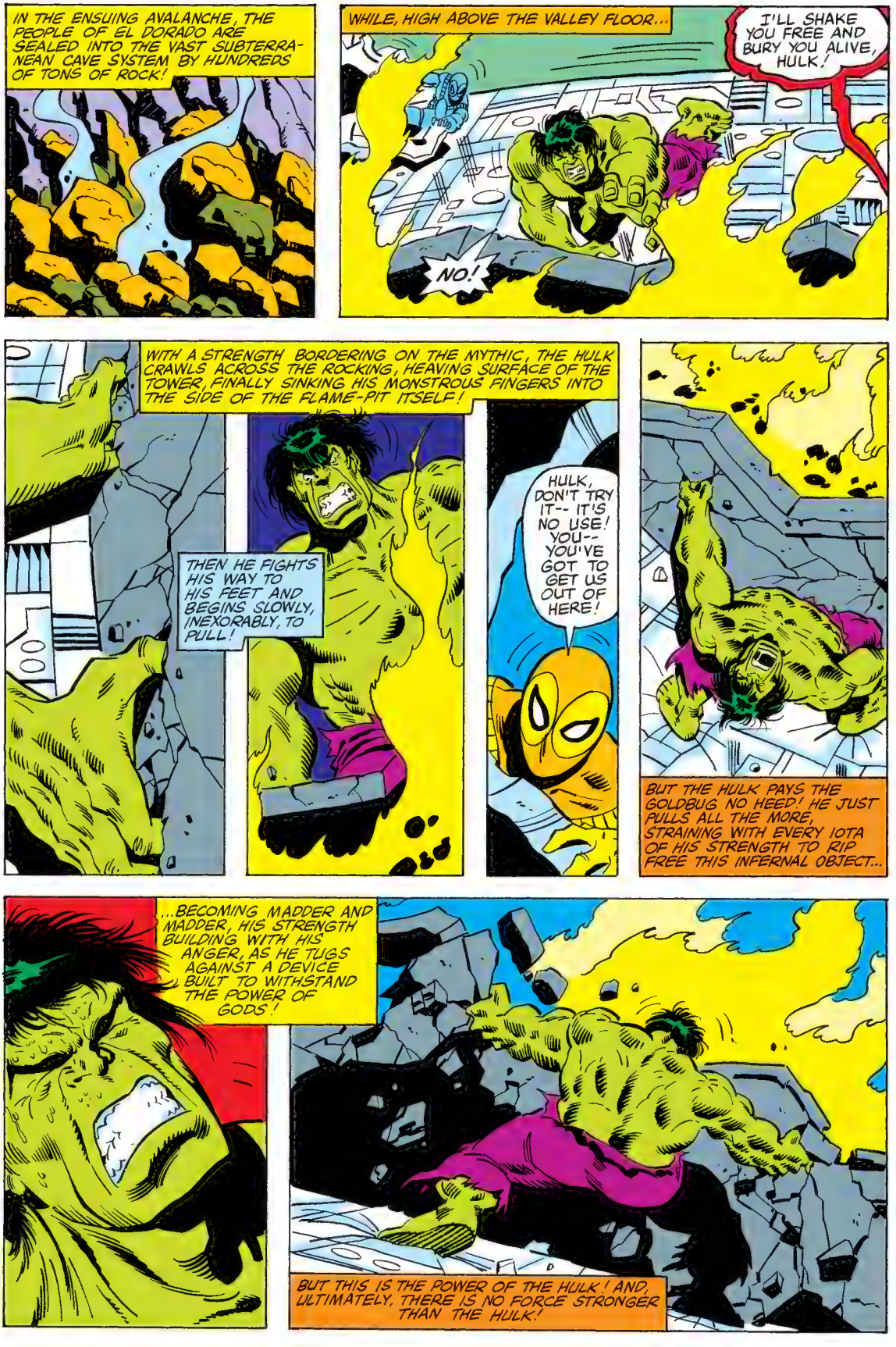

BUT FOR NOW, I NEED NOT BOTHER MYSELF WITH SUCH... RABBLE.
I MUST SET MY PLANS OF CONQUEST INTO MOTION.
THAT'S IT, TY-BABY, YOU JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY :UHN: AND KEEP :EHN: PLAYING NAPOLEAN JUST A LITTLE LONGER AND-- AH!
THERE! THAT TOOK ALL THE JUICE MY COSTUME'S EXO-SKELETON HAD--
-- BUT I FINALLY BROKE FREE OF HIS TITANIUM NET!
NOW TO... OH, NO!
I'VE GOT TO BRING THE HULK AROUND-- HE'S MY ONLY TICKET OUT OF HERE! BUT THIS BRAIN MINE GIZMO IS STUCK TIGHT!
I'VE JUST ONE LAST CHANCE... IF ONLY MY SPECIAL AQUA REGIA SOLUTION WILL WEAKEN THE THING...
GINGERLY, GOLDBUG POURS THE POTENT ACID ONTO THE MIND-NUMBING DEVICE, AND IN SECONDS--
-- HIS HOPES ARE REALIZED... HIS HOPES...
...AND HIS DEEPEST FEARS!

TYRANNUS!
EH, SO YOU FOOLS ARE MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN I THOUGHT!
BUT 'TIS NO MATTER! DO WHAT YOU WILL, HULK! YOU'LL NOT BEST--
--THE POWER OF THE LIVING FLAME!
FEEL ITS POWER, HULK! FEEL THE NEAR-LIMITLESS MIGHT OF DEVIANT TECHNOLOGY!
YARRGHH!!
THE UNYIELDING HAND CLAMPS AROUND THE MAN-MONSTER... SQUEEZING TIGHTER AND TIGHTER! FOR AN AWFUL MOMENT, THE HULK FEELS THE LIFE BEING TORN FROM EVEN HIS MIGHTY FORM--
--AND THEN, WITH ONE BRUTAL MOVEMENT, HE IS FREE!

NOTHING CAN BEAT THE HULK! IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW BIG AN ARM YOU USE -- OR HOW MANY --
--HULK WILL SMASH THEM ALL!
KLATHANK!
WITH GROWING SAVAGERY, THE HULK LEAPS DOWN AGAIN AND AGAIN ONTO THE SPASMODICALLY TWITCHING METAL LIMB --
KHOOOM
--WITH MARKED EFFECT ON ITS SYMBIOTICALLY-LINKED FLESH-AND-BLOOD COUNTERPART!
MY ARM! IT-- IT'S DEAD!
THE HULK, MEANWHILE, HAVING DESTROYED THE METAL ARM, HAS UNCOVERED...
MORE MACHINES?! MACHINES... LIKE MEN USE AGAINST THE HULK!
YES! MACHINES LIKE BANNER WOULD BUILD!
REMINDED OF HIS HATED ALTER EGO, THE HULK ATTACKS --
WHAM

--CAUSING A TERRIFYING REACTION FROM THE DEVIANT TOWER!
AS CENTURIES-OLD CIRCUITS CRACK AND FUSE BEFORE HIS FRENZIED PUMMELING, INCREDIBLE ENERGIES FEED BACK INTO THE VALLEY FLOOR--
--STARTING EARTH TREMORS THAT GROW AND GROW!
BUT THAT IS NOT THE ONLY REACTION HE RECEIVES!
STOP! YOU'RE KILLING ME!
SO!
WHEN HULK HITS MACHINES, TYRANNUS IS HURT, EH?
MY GOD, WHAT'S HE GOING TO--? NO. NO, HE WOULDN'T--!
LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO MACHINES WHEN HULK HITS TYRANNUS!
NO, HULK... NO, YOU'LL NOT BEAT ME... NOT TOUCH ME...

...NOT NOW! THE POWER IS MINE...MINE! I AM THE FLAME... AND IT SHALL BE ME!
AGAIN THE FLAME ROARS SKYWARD...
...BUT THIS TIME, IT FLARES TO A BLINDING INCANDESCENCE. THERE IS A SUDDEN DIRECT TRANSFORMATION OF MATTER TO ENERGY--
AND THE PHYSICAL FORM OF TYRANNUS CEASES TO BE!
AND THEN...
YES, HULK-- NOW I AM THE FLAME! WHAT I WILL SHALL COME TO PASS!
AND I WILL YOUR DESTRUCTION, HULK! YOUR DESTRUCTION--
--AND THAT OF THIS ENTIRE VALLEY!
THE SURROUNDING ANDES MOUNTAINS TREMBLE AND SHAKE, AS THE FLAME-MAN INCREASES THE TREMORS THAT THE HULK'S ATTACK HAD STARTED--
--RIPPING APART THE GRAND BUILDINGS OF THIS CITY OF LEGEND IN MERE MOMENTS!
AND IN THE CAVES AT THE CITY'S EDGE...
GET BACK! THE MOUTH OF THE CAVERN IS COLLAPSING!


IN THE ENSUING AVALANCHE, THE PEOPLE OF EL DORADO ARE SEALED INTO THE VAST SUBTERRANEAN CAVE SYSTEM BY HUNDREDS OF TONS OF ROCK!
WHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE VALLEY FLOOR...
I'LL SHAKE YOU FREE AND BURY YOU ALIVE, HULK!
NO!
WITH A STRENGTH BORDERING ON THE MYTHIC, THE HULK CRAWLS ACROSS THE ROCKING, HEAVING SURFACE OF THE TOWER, FINALLY SINKING HIS MONSTROUS FINGERS INTO THE SIDE OF THE FLAME-PIT ITSELF!
THEN HE FIGHTS HIS WAY TO HIS FEET AND BEGINS SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, TO PULL!
HULK, DON'T TRY IT-- IT'S NO USE! YOU-- YOU'VE GOT TO GET US OUT OF HERE!
BUT THE HULK PAYS THE GOLDBUG NO HEED! HE JUST PULLS ALL THE MORE, STRAINING WITH EVERY IOTA OF HIS STRENGTH TO RIP FREE THIS INFERNAL OBJECT...
...BECOMING MADDER AND MADDER, HIS STRENGTH BUILDING WITH HIS ANGER, AS HE TUGS AGAINST A DEVICE BUILT TO WITHSTAND THE POWER OF GODS!
BUT THIS IS THE POWER OF THE HULK! AND, ULTIMATELY, THERE IS NO FORCE STRONGER THAN THE HULK!

NEXT: THE FINAL ANSWER!

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!
DEATH AND DESTINY!
MILGROM

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

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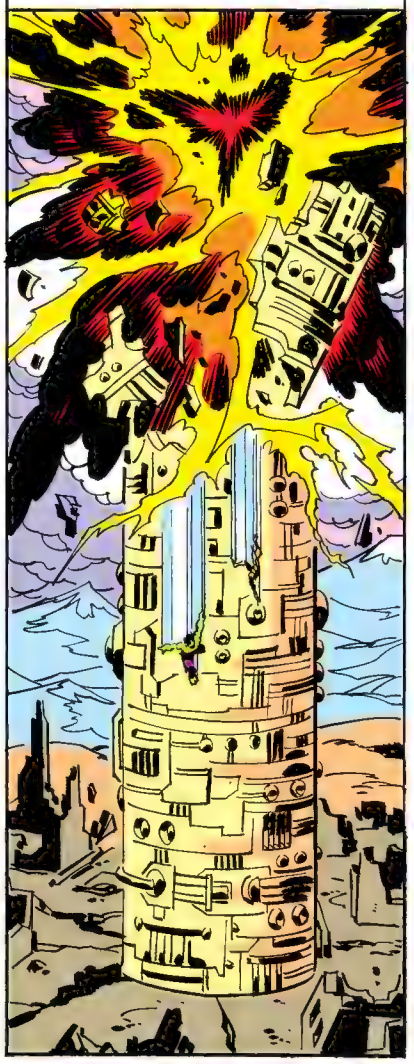
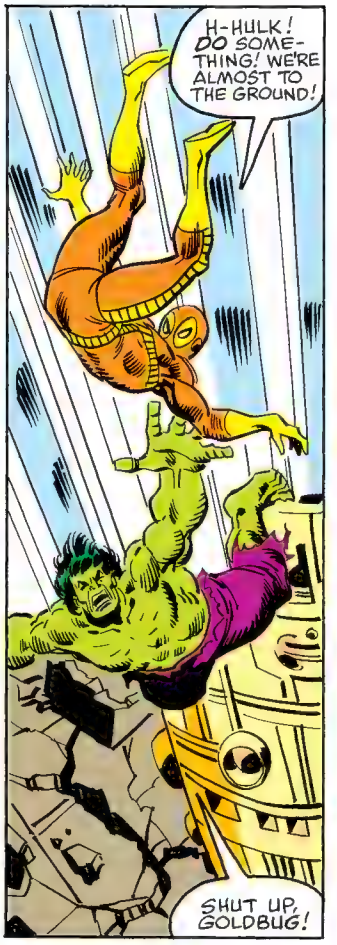
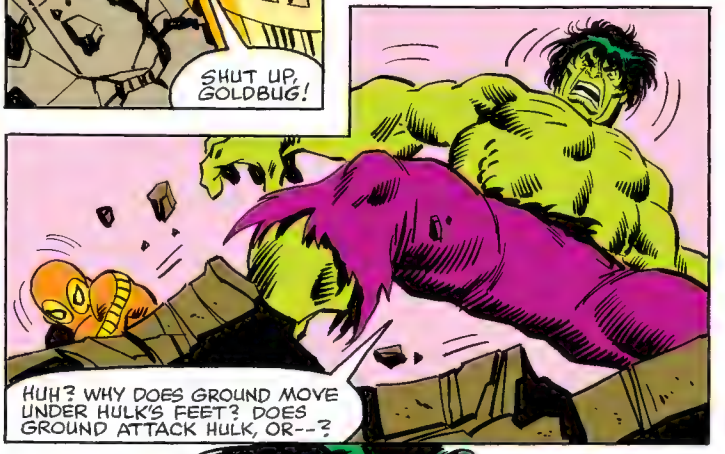
THIS IS THE WAY EL DORADO ENDS-- FOR THE SACRED FLAME LIGHTING THAT FABLED LAND HAS JUST BLOWN SKY-HIGH! ON THE OTHER HAND, THE HULK, WHOSE RAGING STRENGTH CAUSED THE EXPLOSION, IS HEADING STRAIGHT DOWN-- CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE WHIMPERING GOLDBUG, WHO HAS BECOME THE HULK'S ACCIDENTAL PARTNER.
4091
DEATH--
AND DESTINY!

CAUGHT SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDST OF THE EXPLOSION IS TYRANNUS, THE AGELESS WARLORD OF ANTIQUITY, WHO FIRST USED THE COBALT FLAME TO RENEW HIS FADING IMMORTALITY, AND WHO HAS NOW BECOME ONE WITH THE FLAMES! HIS STATE OF BEING IS QUESTIONABLE AT THE MOMENT-- FOR THE EXPLOSION IS TEARING APART THE ANCIENT TOWER THAT CONTAINS THE **FLAME OF LIFE...**

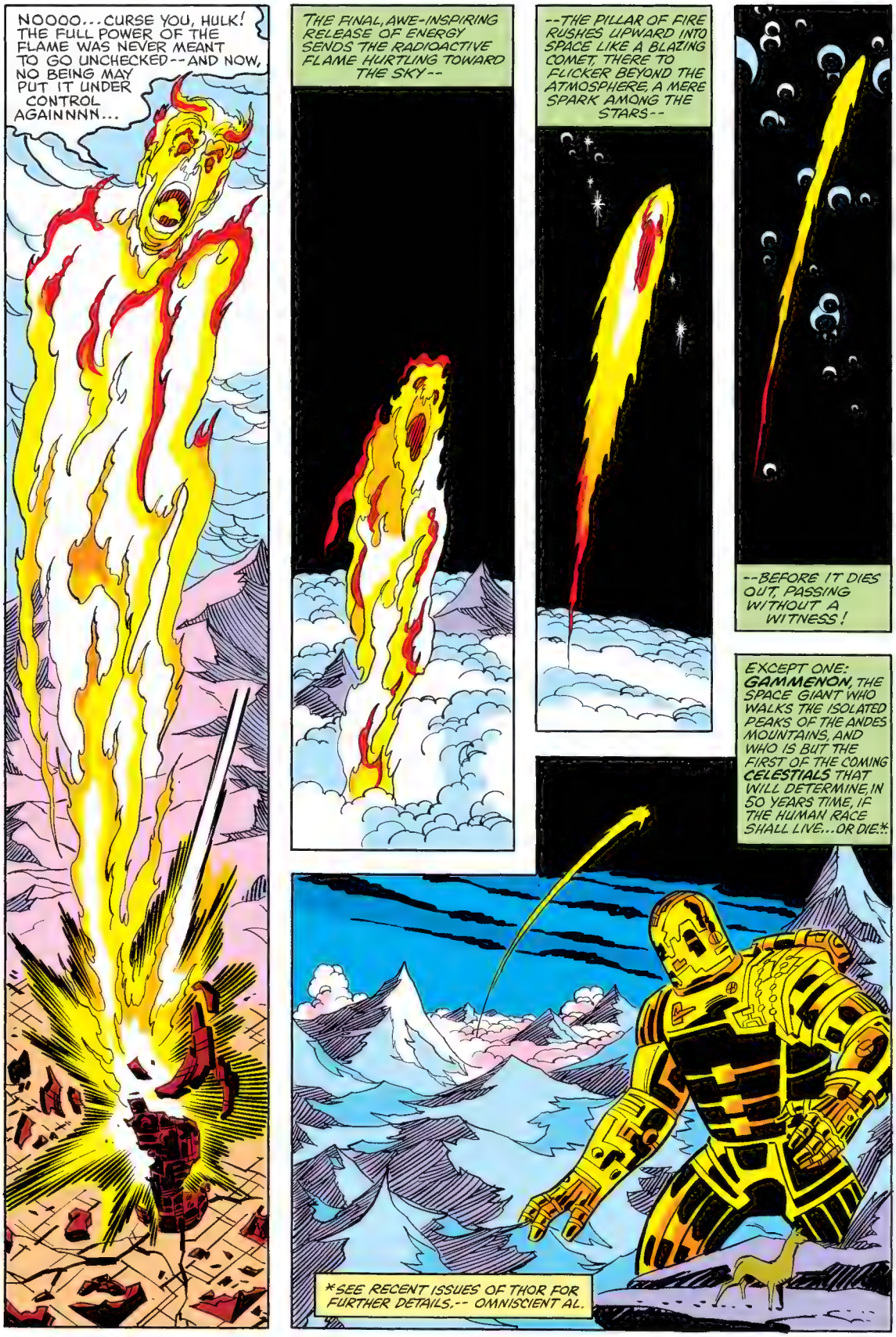


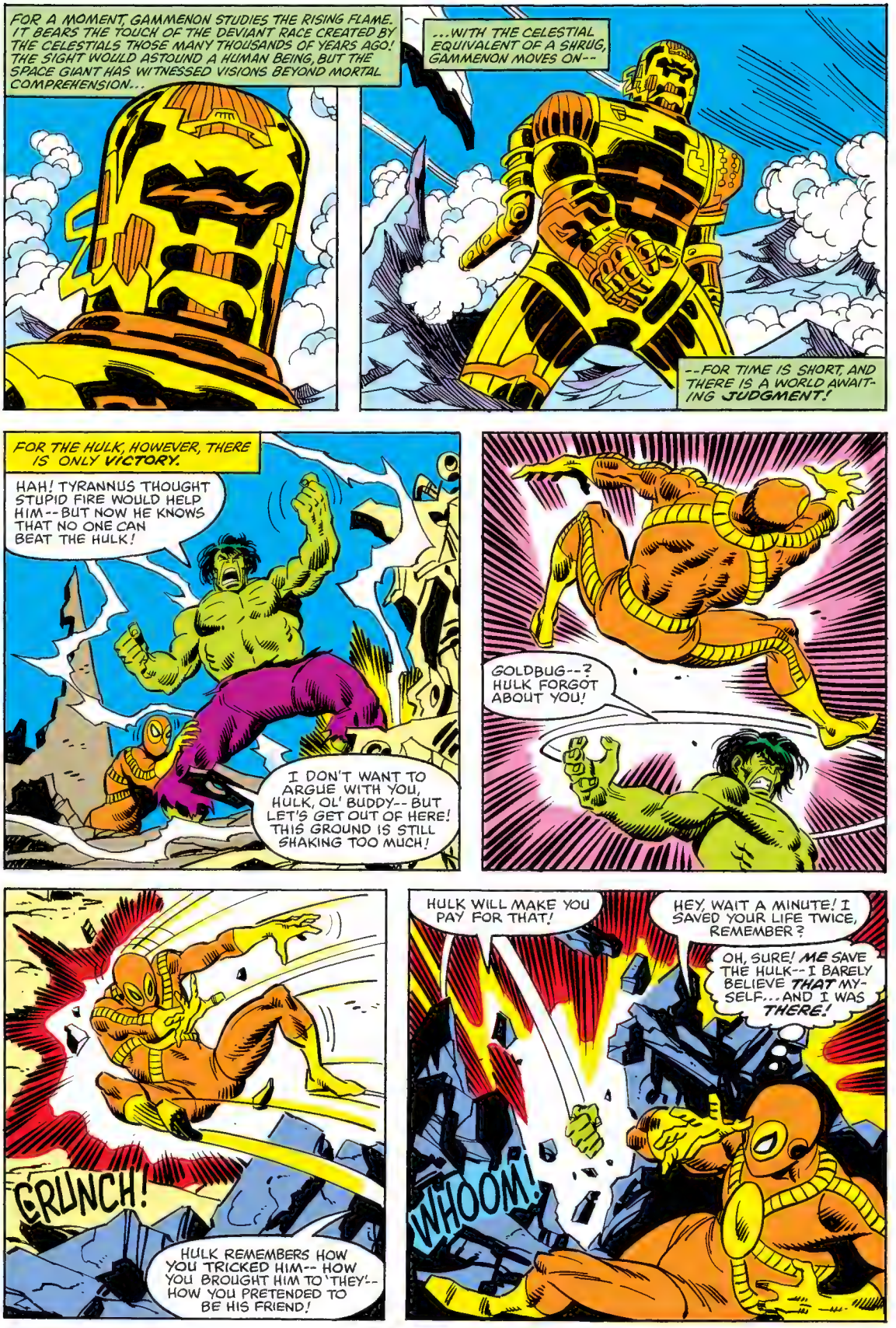




YES, MONSTER! TYRANNUS LIVES--IF THIS CONDITION MAY BE CALLED LIFE! THE POWER YOU HAVE UNLEASHED RAGES BEYOND EVEN MY CONTROL... ALREADY MY MIND IS SLIPPING FROM ME...
YET, I HAVE THE POWER TO CRUSH YOU, HULK--AND PERHAPS IF I TAKE YOUR LIFE FORCE, AS I STOLE THOSE OF THE ORIGINAL LORDS OF THE FLAME, AND OF THAT OLD FOOL TULAK*I SHALL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO ONCE AGAIN RULE THIS TERRIBLE FIRE!
BAH! TYRANNUS HAS GROWN--BUT HULK HAS BEATEN BIG ENEMIES BEFORE! HULK IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!
*HULK #241-242 --AL.
I'LL SEE YOU BURIED ALIVE AND HELPLESS BEFORE I TAKE YOUR LIFE! DO YOU PRESUME TO BE THE SUPERIOR OF TYRANNUS?
YOUR POWER IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE FULL FORCE OF THE SACRED FLAME, HULK! YOUR END IS AT HAND--DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES!
HULK UNDERSTANDS THAT WORDS ARE JUST WORDS--AND TYRANNUS TALKS TOO MUCH! TYRANNUS THINKS HULK IS STUPID BECAUSE HE DOES NOT GIVE UP!
BUT HULK IS NOT STUPID, HULK REMEMBERS THAT HURTING MACHINE HURTS TYRANNUS--
ARRRGH!

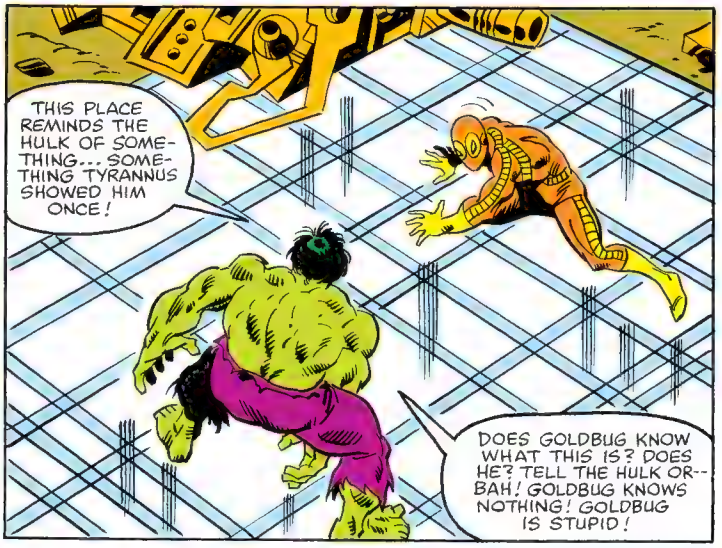
BLAST YOU, BRUTE! THE DAMAGE YOU INFLICTED BEFORE MUST HAVE SHORTED OUT MY FORCE FIELDS! I CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME ON YOU!
ZZAP!
YARRR!
TYRANNUS HURT HULK-- BUT HULK KNOWS HE HURT TYRANNUS MORE!
IS THAT WHY TYRANNUS DOES NOT TALK SO MUCH NOW?
DOES HE KNOW HULK CAN DESTROY HIM--?
R-I-I-I-P!
--THAT HULK CAN DO THIS?
OH, NO--! HULK! IF YOU RIP OPEN THE SHAFT, THE FLAME WILL--
BL
OW!


NOOOO...CURSE YOU, HULK! THE FULL POWER OF THE FLAME WAS NEVER MEANT TO GO UNCHECKED--AND NOW, NO BEING MAY PUT IT UNDER CONTROL AGAINNNN...
THE FINAL, AWE-INSPIRING RELEASE OF ENERGY SENDS THE RADIOACTIVE FLAME HURTLING TOWARD THE SKY--
--THE PILLAR OF FIRE RUSHES UPWARD INTO SPACE LIKE A BLAZING COMET, THERE TO FLICKER BEYOND THE ATMOSPHERE, A MERE SPARK AMONG THE STARS--
--BEFORE IT DIES OUT, PASSING WITHOUT A WITNESS!
EXCEPT ONE: GAMMENON, THE SPACE GIANT WHO WALKS THE ISOLATED PEAKS OF THE ANDES MOUNTAINS, AND WHO IS BUT THE FIRST OF THE COMING CELESTIALS THAT WILL DETERMINE, IN 50 YEARS TIME, IF THE HUMAN RACE SHALL LIVE...OR DIE.*
*SEE RECENT ISSUES OF THOR FOR FURTHER DETAILS.-- OMNISCIENT AL.

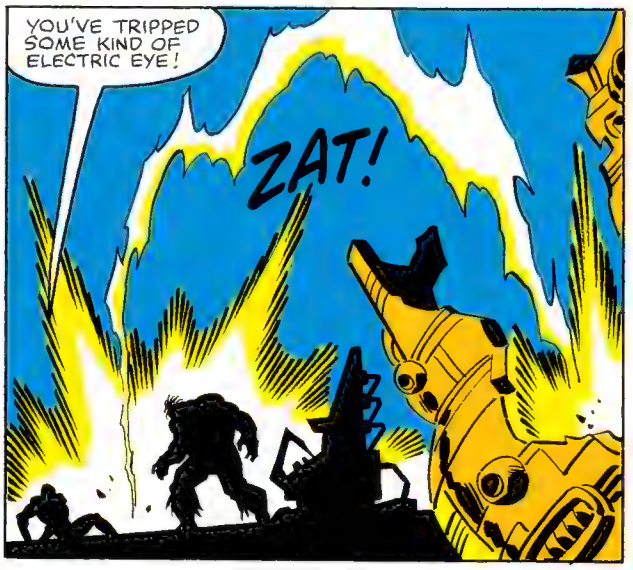

FOR A MOMENT, GAMMENON STUDIES THE RISING FLAME. IT BEARS THE TOUCH OF THE DEVIANT RACE CREATED BY THE CELESTIALS THOSE MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO! THE SIGHT WOULD ASTOUND A HUMAN BEING, BUT THE SPACE GIANT HAS WITNESSED VISIONS BEYOND MORTAL COMPREHENSION...
...WITH THE CELESTIAL EQUIVALENT OF A SHRUG, GAMMENON MOVES ON--
--FOR TIME IS SHORT, AND THERE IS A WORLD AWAITING JUDGMENT!
FOR THE HULK, HOWEVER, THERE IS ONLY VICTORY.
HAH! TYRANNUS THOUGHT STUPID FIRE WOULD HELP HIM--BUT NOW HE KNOWS THAT NO ONE CAN BEAT THE HULK!
I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE WITH YOU, HULK, OL' BUDDY--BUT LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! THIS GROUND IS STILL SHAKING TOO MUCH!
GOLDBUG--? HULK FORGOT ABOUT YOU!
CRUNCH!
HULK REMEMBERS HOW YOU TRICKED HIM--HOW YOU BROUGHT HIM TO 'THEY'--HOW YOU PRETENDED TO BE HIS FRIEND!
HULK WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THAT!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! I SAVED YOUR LIFE TWICE, REMEMBER?
OH, SURE! ME SAVE THE HULK--I BARELY BELIEVE THAT MYSELF...AND I WAS THERE!
WHOOM!

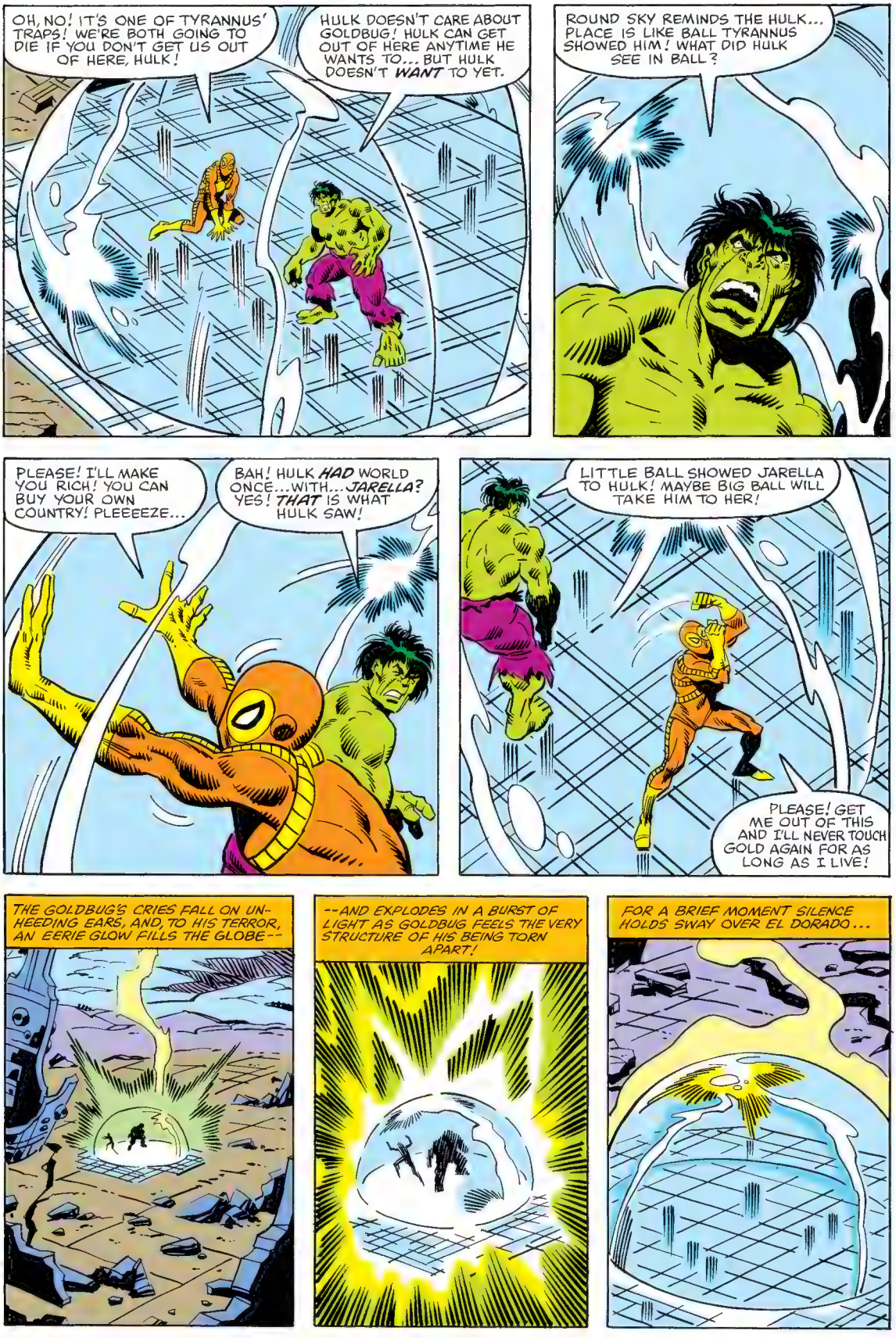
HULK REMEMBERS YOU USED HIM TO MAKE BUGSHIP FLY! HULK REMEMBERS YOU COVERED HIM WITH GOLD! HULK REMEMBERS YOU POURED WATER IN HIS FACE! HULK HAS HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!
ER... I DON'T SUPPOSE I COULD JUST SAY I'M SORRY AND PROMISE NOT TO LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN, HUH?
OH, HELP...

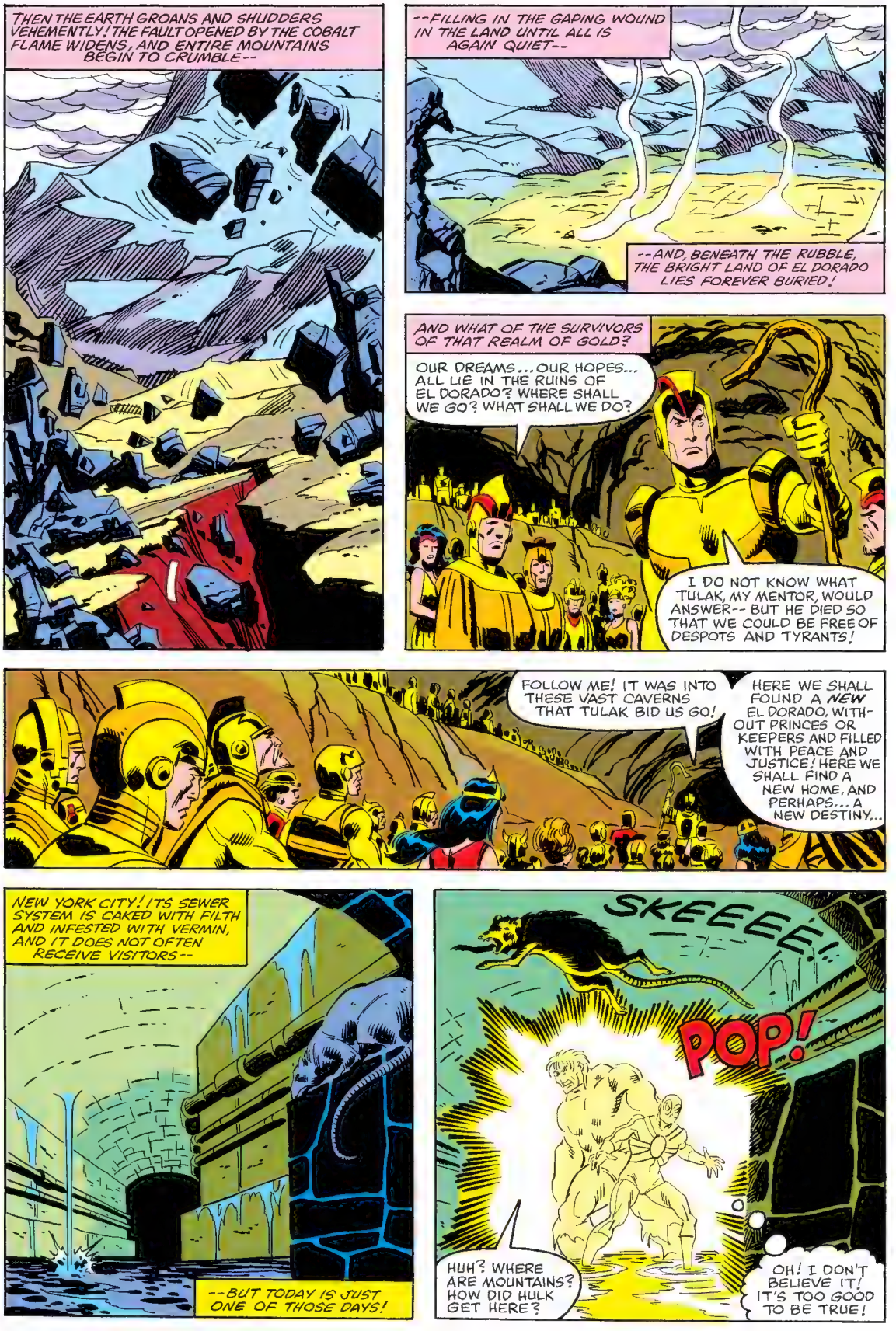
BUGMAN CAN STOP TALKING! HULK WILL NOT LISTEN! HULK WILL--
HUH?


THIS PLACE REMINDS THE HULK OF SOMETHING... SOMETHING TYRANNUS SHOWED HIM ONCE!
DOES GOLDBUG KNOW WHAT THIS IS? DOES HE? TELL THE HULK OR-- BAH! GOLDBUG KNOWS NOTHING! GOLDBUG IS STUPID!

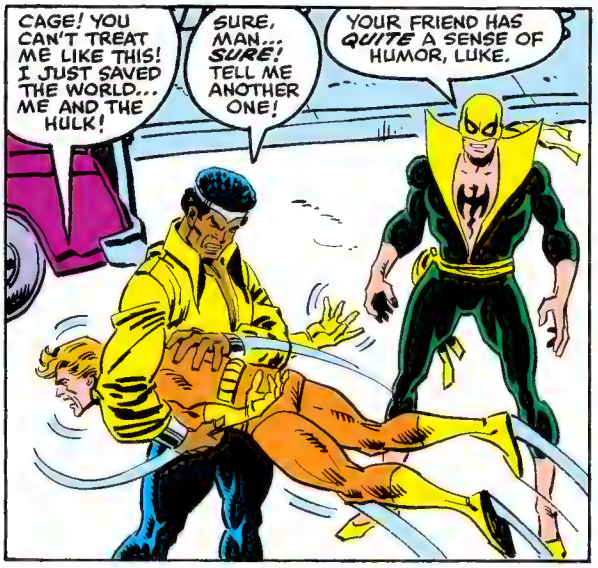
HULK KNOWS! BUT HULK CAN'T REMEMBER--
HULK! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING--


YOU'VE TRIPPED SOME KIND OF ELECTRIC EYE!
ZAT!


OH, NO! IT'S ONE OF TYRANNUS' TRAPS! WE'RE BOTH GOING TO DIE IF YOU DON'T GET US OUT OF HERE, HULK!
HULK DOESN'T CARE ABOUT GOLDBUG! HULK CAN GET OUT OF HERE ANYTIME HE WANTS TO... BUT HULK DOESN'T *WANT* TO YET.
ROUND SKY REMINDS THE HULK... PLACE IS LIKE BALL TYRANNUS SHOWED HIM! WHAT DID HULK SEE IN BALL?
PLEASE! I'LL MAKE YOU RICH! YOU CAN BUY YOUR OWN COUNTRY! PLEEEEZE...
BAH! HULK *HAD* WORLD ONCE...WITH...*JARELLA*? YES! *THAT* IS WHAT HULK SAW!
LITTLE BALL SHOWED JARELLA TO HULK! MAYBE BIG BALL WILL TAKE HIM TO HER!
PLEASE! GET ME OUT OF THIS AND I'LL NEVER TOUCH GOLD AGAIN FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE!
THE GOLDBUG'S CRIES FALL ON UNHEEDING EARS, AND, TO HIS TERROR, AN EERIE GLOW FILLS THE GLOBE--
--AND EXPLODES IN A BURST OF LIGHT AS GOLDBUG FEELS THE VERY STRUCTURE OF HIS BEING TORN APART!
FOR A BRIEF MOMENT SILENCE HOLDS SWAY OVER EL DORADO...

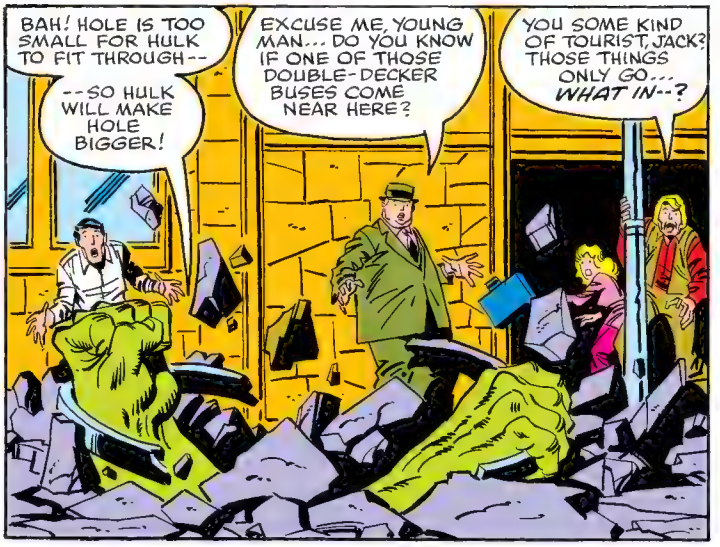

THEN THE EARTH GROANS AND SHUDDERS VEHEMENTLY! THE FAULT OPENED BY THE COBALT FLAME WIDENS, AND ENTIRE MOUNTAINS BEGIN TO CRUMBLE--
--FILLING IN THE GAPING WOUND IN THE LAND UNTIL ALL IS AGAIN QUIET--
--AND, BENEATH THE RUBBLE, THE BRIGHT LAND OF EL DORADO LIES FOREVER BURIED!
AND WHAT OF THE SURVIVORS OF THAT REALM OF GOLD?
OUR DREAMS... OUR HOPES... ALL LIE IN THE RUINS OF EL DORADO? WHERE SHALL WE GO? WHAT SHALL WE DO?
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TULAK, MY MENTOR, WOULD ANSWER-- BUT HE DIED SO THAT WE COULD BE FREE OF DESPOTS AND TYRANTS!
FOLLOW ME! IT WAS INTO THESE VAST CAVERNS THAT TULAK BID US GO!
HERE WE SHALL FOUND A NEW EL DORADO, WITHOUT PRINCES OR KEEPERS AND FILLED WITH PEACE AND JUSTICE! HERE WE SHALL FIND A NEW HOME, AND PERHAPS... A NEW DESTINY...
NEW YORK CITY! ITS SEWER SYSTEM IS CAKED WITH FILTH AND INFESTED WITH VERMIN, AND IT DOES NOT OFTEN RECEIVE VISITORS--
--BUT TODAY IS JUST ONE OF THOSE DAYS!
SKEEEE!
POP!
HUH? WHERE ARE MOUNTAINS? HOW DID HULK GET HERE?
OH! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

WE'VE BEEN TELEPORTED BACK TO CIVILIZATION!
WE'RE HOME, HULK! HOME! LET'S GET OUT OF--
HOLD IT, GOLDBUG!
HULK IS NOT DONE WITH YOU!
HOLY--! IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, I THOUGHT HE'D SORT OF FORGIVE AND FORGET!
AT LEAST THE HULK CAN'T LEAP AFTER ME DOWN HERE... AND I CAN RUN FASTER THAN HE CAN PLOD!
WHICH MEANS THAT I CAN GET AWAY FROM HIM, IF I COME TOPSIDE ANYWHERE NEAR--
THIS IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! I'M IN MANHATTAN ONLY TWO BLOCKS FROM MY PENTHOUSE!
PARK AVE
GOLDBUG, YOU OL' SON-OF-A-GUN! YOU CAME THROUGH THIS ONE COMPLETELY UN-- WHAT?!
WELL, WELL-- IF IT AIN'T JACK SMITH? WHAT SEWER DID YOU CRAWL OUT OF?
I'VE GOT A NEW PARTNER I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET. IRON FIST... JACK SMITH, SMITH'S ALSO A SLIMEY SON WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE GOLDBUG-- AN' I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR 'IM FOR MONTHS!*
LUKE CAGE?! NOOOO! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
*SINCE POWER MAN #40, TO BE PRECISE -- AL.

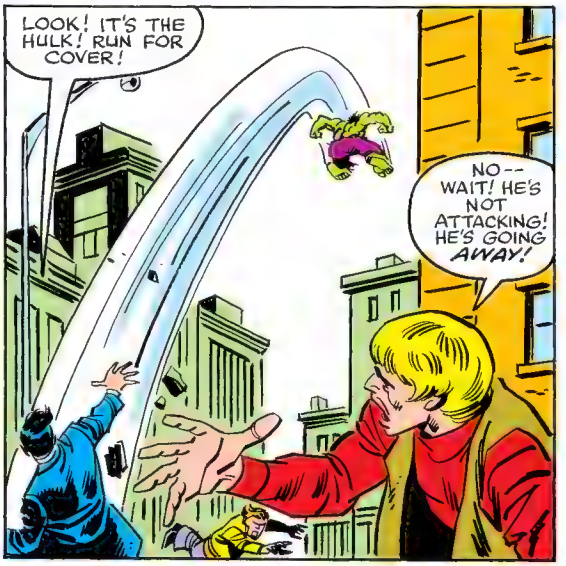

CAGE! YOU CAN'T TREAT ME LIKE THIS! I JUST SAVED THE WORLD... ME AND THE HULK!
SURE, MAN... SURE! TELL ME ANOTHER ONE!
YOUR FRIEND HAS QUITE A SENSE OF HUMOR, LUKE.

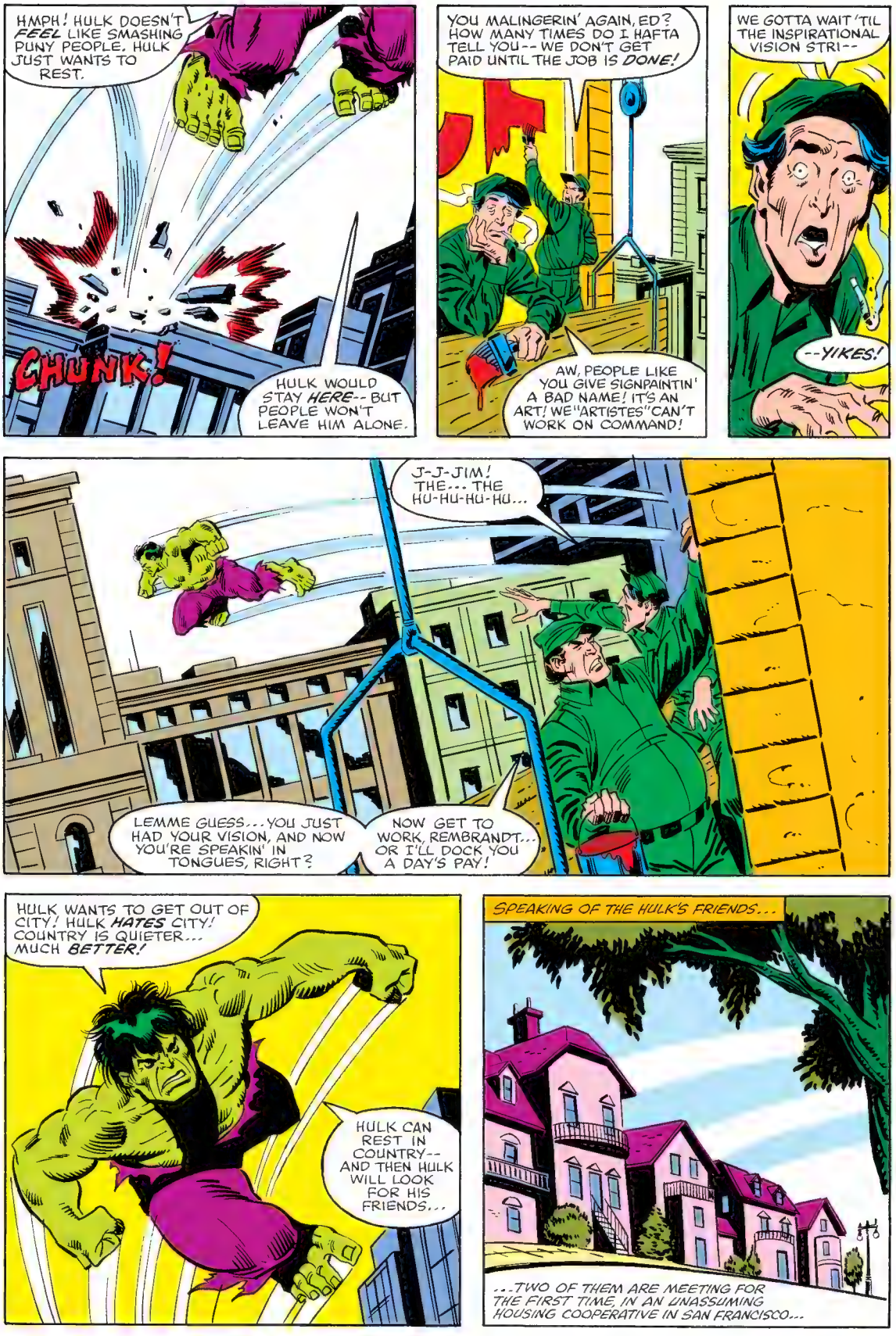
C'MON, SMITH! WE GOT ANOTHER FRIEND WHO'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR JOKES... NAME O' LT. RAFAEL SCARFE, N.Y.P.D.
NO! I SWEAR I'M TELLING THE TRUTH, CAGE! I SWEAR IT...

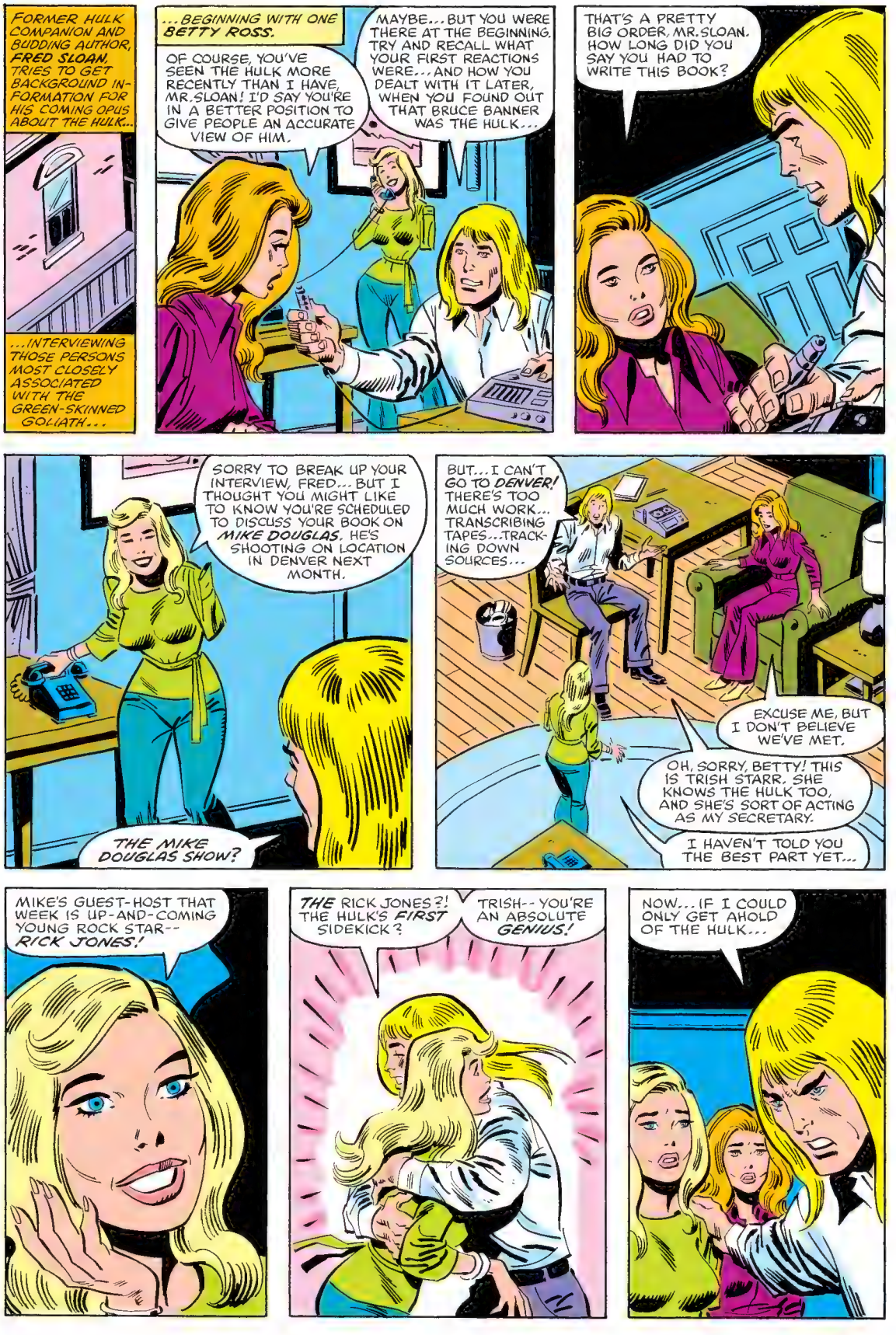
AS THE TWO HEROES *CARRY THE SCREAMING AND KICKING GOLDBUG OFF TO JAIL...
*WHO CAN BE REGULARLY SEEN IN THEIR OWN BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE, POWERMAN/ IRON FIST -- PLUG HAPPY AL.


BAH! HOLE IS TOO SMALL FOR HULK TO FIT THROUGH--
--SO HULK WILL MAKE HOLE BIGGER!
EXCUSE ME, YOUNG MAN... DO YOU KNOW IF ONE OF THOSE DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES COME NEAR HERE?
YOU SOME KIND OF TOURIST, JACK? THOSE THINGS ONLY GO... WHAT IN--?

UH... THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, BUT I REALLY SHALL TRY ELSEWHERE-- LIKE LONDON!


LOOK! IT'S THE HULK! RUN FOR COVER!
NO-- WAIT! HE'S NOT ATTACKING! HE'S GOING AWAY!


HMPH! HULK DOESN'T FEEL LIKE SMASHING PUNY PEOPLE. HULK JUST WANTS TO REST.
CHUNK!
HULK WOULD STAY HERE-- BUT PEOPLE WON'T LEAVE HIM ALONE.
YOU MALINGERIN' AGAIN, ED? HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAFTA TELL YOU-- WE DON'T GET PAID UNTIL THE JOB IS DONE!
AW, PEOPLE LIKE YOU GIVE SIGNPAINTIN' A BAD NAME! IT'S AN ART! WE "ARTISTES" CAN'T WORK ON COMMAND!
WE GOTTA WAIT 'TIL THE INSPIRATIONAL VISION STRI--
--YIKES!
J-J-JIM! THE... THE HU-HU-HU-HU...
LEMME GUESS... YOU JUST HAD YOUR VISION, AND NOW YOU'RE SPEAKIN' IN TONGUES, RIGHT?
NOW GET TO WORK, REMBRANDT... OR I'LL DOCK YOU A DAY'S PAY!
HULK WANTS TO GET OUT OF CITY! HULK HATES CITY! COUNTRY IS QUIETER... MUCH BETTER!
HULK CAN REST IN COUNTRY-- AND THEN HULK WILL LOOK FOR HIS FRIENDS...
SPEAKING OF THE HULK'S FRIENDS...
...TWO OF THEM ARE MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN AN UNASSUMING HOUSING COOPERATIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO...


FORMER HULK COMPANION AND BUDDING AUTHOR, FRED SLOAN, TRIES TO GET BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR HIS COMING OPUS ABOUT THE HULK...
...INTERVIEWING THOSE PERSONS MOST CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH...
...BEGINNING WITH ONE BETTY ROSS.
OF COURSE, YOU'VE SEEN THE HULK MORE RECENTLY THAN I HAVE, MR. SLOAN! I'D SAY YOU'RE IN A BETTER POSITION TO GIVE PEOPLE AN ACCURATE VIEW OF HIM.
MAYBE... BUT YOU WERE THERE AT THE BEGINNING. TRY AND RECALL WHAT YOUR FIRST REACTIONS WERE... AND HOW YOU DEALT WITH IT LATER, WHEN YOU FOUND OUT THAT BRUCE BANNER WAS THE HULK...
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG ORDER, MR. SLOAN. HOW LONG DID YOU SAY YOU HAD TO WRITE THIS BOOK?
SORRY TO BREAK UP YOUR INTERVIEW, FRED... BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW YOU'RE SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS YOUR BOOK ON MIKE DOUGLAS, HE'S SHOOTING ON LOCATION IN DENVER NEXT MONTH.
THE MIKE DOUGLAS SHOW?
BUT... I CAN'T GO TO DENVER! THERE'S TOO MUCH WORK... TRANSCRIBING TAPES... TRACKING DOWN SOURCES...
EXCUSE ME, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET.
OH, SORRY, BETTY! THIS IS TRISH STARR. SHE KNOWS THE HULK TOO, AND SHE'S SORT OF ACTING AS MY SECRETARY.
I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU THE BEST PART YET...
MIKE'S GUEST-HOST THAT WEEK IS UP-AND-COMING YOUNG ROCK STAR-- RICK JONES!
THE RICK JONES?! THE HULK'S FIRST SIDEKICK?
TRISH-- YOU'RE AN ABSOLUTE GENIUS!
NOW... IF I COULD ONLY GET AHOLD OF THE HULK...

ALAS, CONTACTING THE HULK IS NO EASY MATTER. A SECRET ARMY MEMO REPORTED THE DEATH OF THE HULK IN OREGON-- BUT IT IS SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS BODY...

...FOR, UNKNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE GREEN GOLIATH HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED TO ASGARD, TO JOIN HIS FELLOW DEFENDERS IN THE BATTLE OF VALHALLA...

...AND THEN RETURNED TO EARTH TO FACE THE THREAT OF THE **OMEGATRON** AND ITS HUMAN PAWN, **THE ANYTHING MAN**...

...AFTER WHICH HE JOINED THE DEFENDERS IN TRACKING THE MADMAN ARIZEN TURK TO THE DIMENSION OF THE TUNNELWORLD.

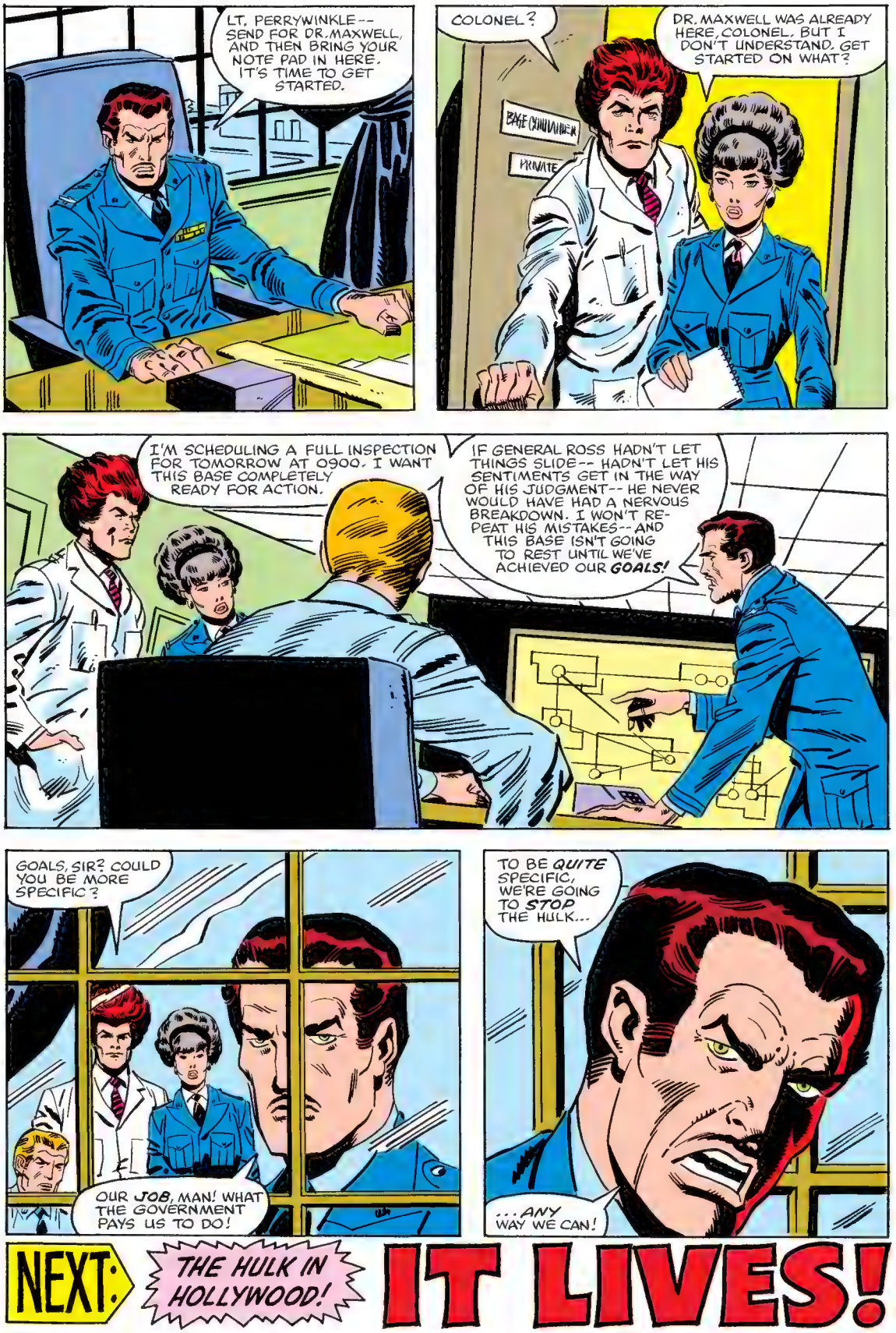
FINALLY, THE HULK BRIEFLY RETURNED TO THE PUBLIC VIEW, FIRST DESTROYING THE LONG ISLAND RAILROAD...

...THEN COMING INTO CONFLICT WITH BLIND ATTORNEY, MATT MURDOCH... AND HIS RED-GARBED ALTER-EGO, DAREDEVIL*...

...BEFORE DISAPPEARING AGAIN... UNTIL NEXT ISSUE...

*THE FULL STORIES CAN BE FOUND IN **DEFENDERS** #68-74 AND **DAREDEVIL** #163 RESPECTIVELY --AL.

AT GAMMA BASE, IN THE NEW MEXICAN DESERT...
COME IN, QUARTERMAIN! I'M GLAD YOU COULD DROP IN TO SEE ME BEFORE YOU LEFT.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT. I'D HEARD THAT THE BASE WAS GETTING A NEW COMMANDER-- BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D GOTTEN HERE ALREADY.
ACTUALLY, CAPTAIN BOWMAN, I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP. I'M ALMOST SORRY SHIELD'S RELOCATING ME.
I'M SORRY TOO, CLAY. BY THE WAY-- DO YOU KNOW THE COMMANDER?
WE MET SOME TIME AGO... BACK WHEN I WAS FIRST GIVEN THIS ASSIGNMENT.
I'M VERY GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
...AND CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION, COLONEL GLENN TALBOT.
I NEEDED THE HIGHER RANK FOR THIS JOB. WITH GENERAL ROSS RELIEVED OF COMMAND, THE PENTAGON WANTED A MAN EXPERIENCED IN DEALING WITH THE HULK! BEING THE GENERAL'S FORMER ADJUTANT, I WAS THE OBVIOUS CHOICE.
YOU'VE HELPED THIS BASE THROUGH TRYING TIMES, QUARTERMAIN. THANK YOU. BUT I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND-- I APPRECIATE SHIELD'S HELP, BUT GAMMA BASE HAS TO STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET AGAIN.
NO EXPLANATION NECESSARY, SIR. GOODBYE, COLONEL TALBOT-- CAPTAIN BOWMAN. I'M SURE YOU'LL DO YOUR BEST...
...BUT WILL THAT BE ENOUGH? YOU'VE MORE REASON THAN MOST MEN TO HATE THE HULK, TALBOT...AND THAT WORRIES ME.
BASE COMMAND
PRIVATE
NOW I REALLY WISH I WAS STAYING. THIS BASE MAY NEED ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET.


LT. PERRYWINKLE-- SEND FOR DR. MAXWELL, AND THEN BRING YOUR NOTE PAD IN HERE. IT'S TIME TO GET STARTED.
COLONEL?
DR. MAXWELL WAS ALREADY HERE, COLONEL. BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. GET STARTED ON WHAT?
PRIVATE
I'M SCHEDULING A FULL INSPECTION FOR TOMORROW AT 0900. I WANT THIS BASE COMPLETELY READY FOR ACTION.
IF GENERAL ROSS HADN'T LET THINGS SLIDE-- HADN'T LET HIS SENTIMENTS GET IN THE WAY OF HIS JUDGMENT-- HE NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN. I WON'T REPEAT HIS MISTAKES-- AND THIS BASE ISN'T GOING TO REST UNTIL WE'VE ACHIEVED OUR GOALS!
GOALS, SIR? COULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?
OUR JOB, MAN! WHAT THE GOVERNMENT PAYS US TO DO!
TO BE QUITE SPECIFIC, WE'RE GOING TO STOP THE HULK...
...ANY WAY WE CAN!
NEXT:
THE HULK IN HOLLYWOOD!
IT LIVES!

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STAN LEE PRESENTS: **THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®**

A GAME OF MONSTERS AND KINGS

DOUG MOENCH / WRITER | STEVE DITKO & ALLEN MILGROM / ARTISTS | JIM NOVAK, LETTERER / ROUSSOS, COLORIST | SALICRUP & MILGROM / EDITORS | J. SHOOTER / ED.-IN-CHIEF

THE GOTHAM CLUB GAMING ROOM: SIX MEN, ALL WITH HISTORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RACKETEERING, SABOTAGE, AND MERCENARY ACTIVITY WHO HAVE SINCE PARLAYED THEIR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS INTO POSITIONS OF SOCIAL PROMINENCE, ARE NOW... BORED.
I'M SICK OF MERE GAMES-- SICK OF WHAT WE'VE BECOME!
AGREED, REIGEL--THERE'S LITTLE SATISFACTION IN TRADING PIECES OF PAPER.
AND MY GAME OF REAL ESTATE IS NO CHALLENGE, NOT LIKE THE OLD DAYS IN THE WAR--
--WHEN WE MADE MOVES FOR REAL TERRITORY!
FACE IT, WE'RE GETTING OLD-- WE'RE TRAPPED. THERE'S NO FREEDOM, NO THRILL OF MOVING AND SHAKING. IT'S TIME, GENTLEMEN, FOR A CHANGE.
INDEED, WITH OUR BACKGROUNDS AND CURRENT RESOURCES, IT'S TIME FOR A REAL GAME--A DANGEROUS GAME.
LIKE WHAT, REIGEL? THERE'S NOTHING LEFT THESE DAYS!
SURE THERE IS, NIVEN--THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME.
AND WHAT'S THAT?
NOT WHAT, LOGAN-- WHO. THE MAN-MONSTER CALLED THE HULK.
YOU... YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS, AREN'T YOU, REIGEL?
I AM--AND THE NEXT TIME HE'S REPORTED IN THE CITY, I PROPOSE WE BEGIN... ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF A MOST TIME-HONORED GAME. LET ME SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU...
AND AT DAWN, AFTER A LONG NIGHT OF DEBATE AND STRATEGY...
THEN IT'S AGREED?
YES--WITH OUR RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCE, ONE OF US SHOULD SUCCEED.
VERY WELL, WE'LL BEGIN PREPARING FOR THE HULK'S NEXT APPEARANCE IN THE CITY--AND WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN PRECISELY ONE MONTH.

MEANWHILE, A RENTED CAR MAKES ITS WAY ACROSS THE SOUTHWESTERN DESERT...
GUESS MY ULTIMATE GOAL SHOULD BE NEW YORK CITY-- BUT I'LL MAKE STOPS ALONG THE WAY, TAKE ODD JOBS, KEEP MYSELF IN RENTAL CAR MONEY...

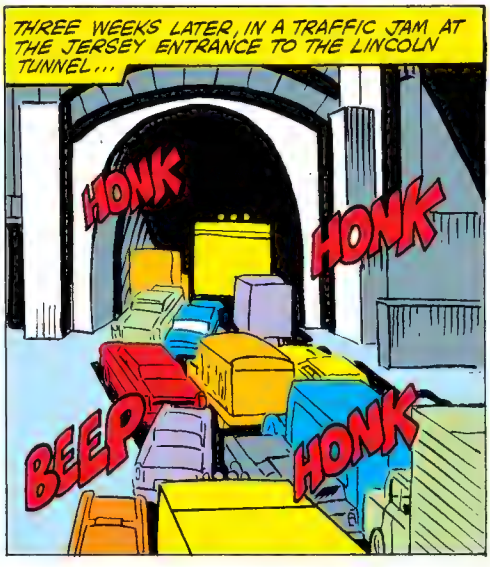
THE DRIVER IS A HAUNTED MAN NAMED BRUCE BANNER.
...AND END EVENTUALLY IN NEW YORK-- BUT FOR WHAT? WHO KNOWS? MAYBE THERE'LL BE HELP... OR AT LEAST HOPE.

BESIDES, THE CITY'S ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE MYSELF.
AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE WAITING FOR ME... THEN SO MUCH THE BETTER.

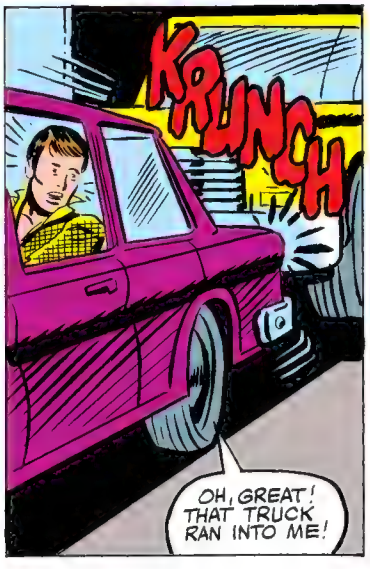
ONE MONTH LATER, AT NEW YORK'S GOTHAM CLUB...
WHAT NOW, REIGEL? WE'RE ALL SET-- BUT THERE'S NO HULK.
WE JUST BIDE OUR TIME, STONE, HOLD OUR REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS...

...AND WHEN WE HEAR NEWS OF THE HULK'S PRESENCE, WE MEET HERE IMMEDIATELY.
TAK
TAK

DOUBLE-JUMP, NIVEN. YOU LOSE.


THREE WEEKS LATER, IN A TRAFFIC JAM AT THE JERSEY ENTRANCE TO THE LINCOLN TUNNEL...
HONK
HONK
BEEP
HONK

...BRUCE BANNER TRIES TO CONTROL HIMSELF.
PERFECT WAY TO ENTER THE CITY.
SHOULD'VE KNOWN I'D RUN INTO A TRAFFIC JAM!

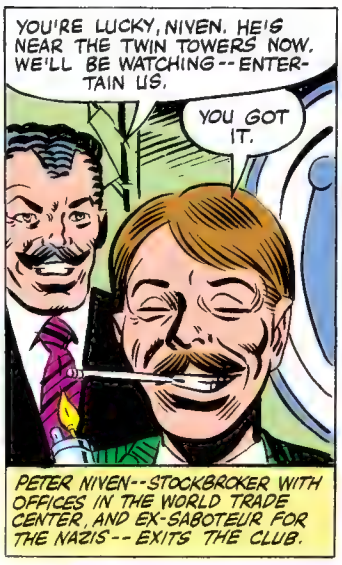

KRUNCH
OH, GREAT! THAT TRUCK RAN INTO ME!

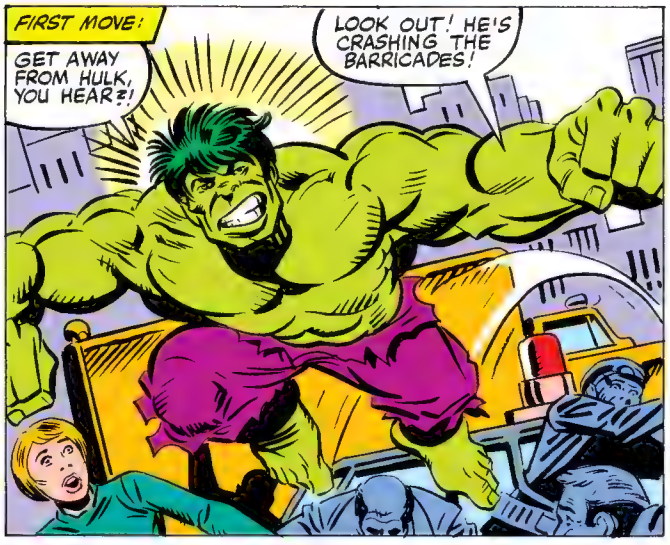
WHATSAMATTER WITH YOU, PUNK? AIN'TCHA NEVER HEARD OF BRAKE-LIGHTS?
I...I'M SORRY. IT'S A RENTED CAR-- I DIDN'T KNOW THE BRAKE-LIGHTS WERE OUT.
YEAH? AND MAYBE I DON'T KNOW THAT MY FISTS LIABLE TO GO OFF!
NO--PLEASE! LET ME GO! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING--WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!
BUT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE. DRIVEN BY HIS POUNDING HEART, THE SEETHING FIRE OF GAMMA RADIATION PUMPS THROUGH BRUCE BANNER'S SYSTEM...
...TRIGGERING THE MIRACULOUS AND TERRIFYING TRANSFORMATION TO THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
NO! OH N-NO! YOU... YOU CHANGED TO A MONSTER!
A CHANGE ALSO OCCURS IN THE TRUCK DRIVER-- FROM BULLY TO COWARD.
HELP! HE'S AFTER ME!
YOU BETTER RUN--
--'CAUSE HULK IS MAD! AND WHEN HULK GETS MAD, HULK SMASHES!
WITHIN INSTANTS, THE TRAFFIC JAM IS CLEARED!

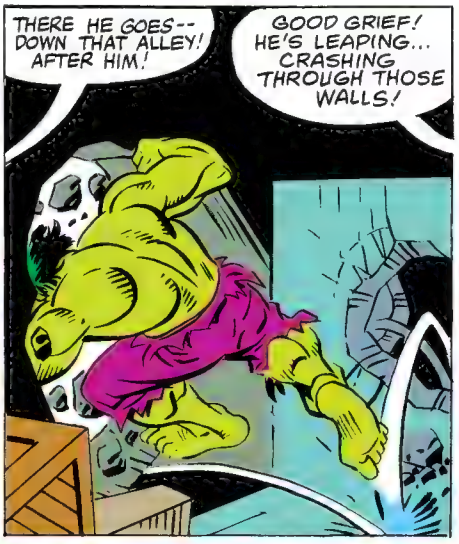
THEN, SUBCONSCIOUSLY RETAINING BANNER'S INTEREST IN GETTING TO MANHATTAN...
BAH! HULK CAN'T REMEMBER WHY, BUT HE MUST GO TO CITY--
--SO HE WILL JUST JUMP.
THAT EVENING...
--EVERYONE ELSE WAS RUNNIN' AWAY, BUT I WASN'T SCARED OF THE BIG GREEN PUG. IN FACT, I THINK I MAYBE EVEN MADE HIM JUMP AWAY, Y'KNOW.
HE JUMPED AWAY?
YEAH... ACROST THE RIVER INTO MANHATTAN OVER THERE.
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT FROM THE SCENE AT THE NEW JERSEY ENTRANCE TO THE LINCOLN TUNNEL. APPARENTLY THE GREEN MAN-MONSTER KNOWN AS THE HULK--
--HAS ONCE AGAIN RETURNED TO PLAGUE NEW YORK CITY. THIS IS JESSICA SPARLING FOR ON-THE-SPOT NEWS.
IN THE SHADOWS OF HIS LUXURY APARTMENT, CHARLES REIGEL SMILES.
SO... TONIGHT IT BEGINS.
NIGHT TIME IN LOWER MANHATTAN: EVER SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN THE CITY, THE HULK HAS EMBARKED ON AN EXTENDED RAMPAGE...
WHY DO THEY ALWAYS CHASE HULK? WHY CAN'T THEY JUST LEAVE HULK ALONE?
CONSTANT MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE EVENT HAS ALREADY BEGUN...
-- POLICE ARE SO FAR CONFINING THEMSELVES TO MONITORING THE HULK AND KEEPING PEOPLE AWAY FROM HIM.
HOWEVER, THIS ATTENTION, AND THE STRESSFUL ASPECTS OF THE CITY ITSELF--
--THE NOISE, GLARING LIGHTS, AND CONGESTION--COULD COMBINE TO KEEP THE HULK IN A PERPETUAL STATE OF HYPER-TENSION.

CLEARLY, IT IS NOT KNOWN IF, AND WHEN, HE WILL EVER CALM DOWN ENOUGHT TO LEAVE THE CITY. THIS IS JESSICA SPARLING IN LOWER MANHATTAN FOR --
KLIK

THIS IS IT, AND YOU'RE FIRST, NIVEN.
RIGHT-- I'VE SELECTED THE WORLD TRADE CENTER.
GOOD ENOUGH. THERE'S MORE THAN ONE OF THEM, RATHER PLAIN AND FEATURELESS...
...AND HEADQUARTERS FOR MY MANIPULATIONS OF OTHERS' MONEY AND LIVES...

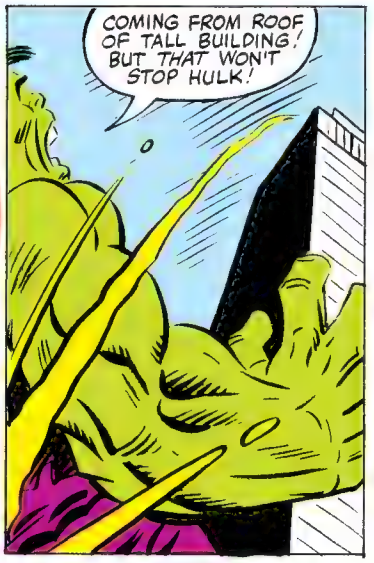

YOU'RE LUCKY, NIVEN. HE'S NEAR THE TWIN TOWERS NOW. WE'LL BE WATCHING-- ENTERTAIN US.
YOU GOT IT.
PETER NIVEN--STOCKBROKER WITH OFFICES IN THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, AND EX-SABOTEUR FOR THE NAZIS-- EXITS THE CLUB.

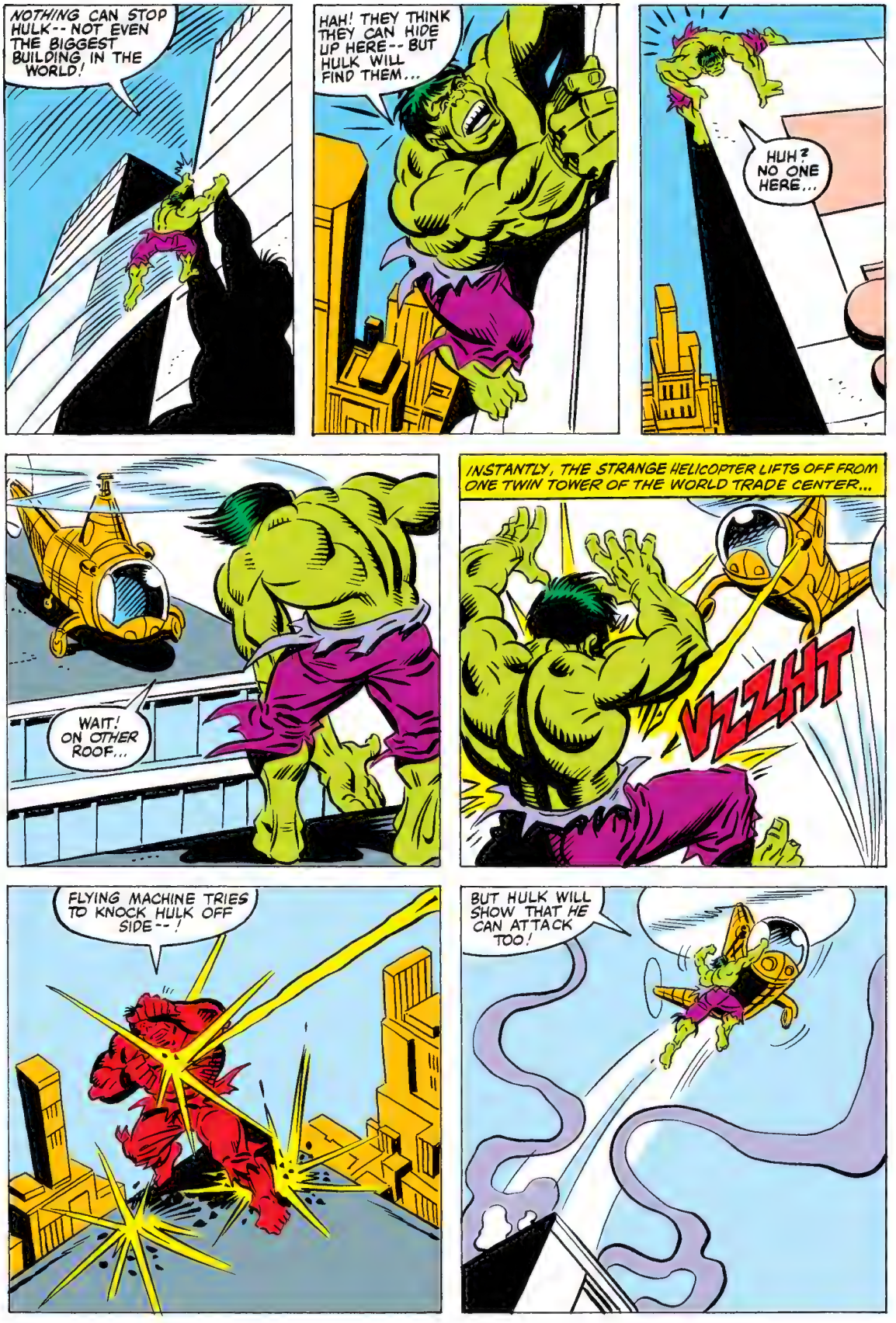

FIRST MOVE:
GET AWAY FROM HULK, YOU HEAR?!
LOOK OUT! HE'S CRASHING THE BARRICADES!

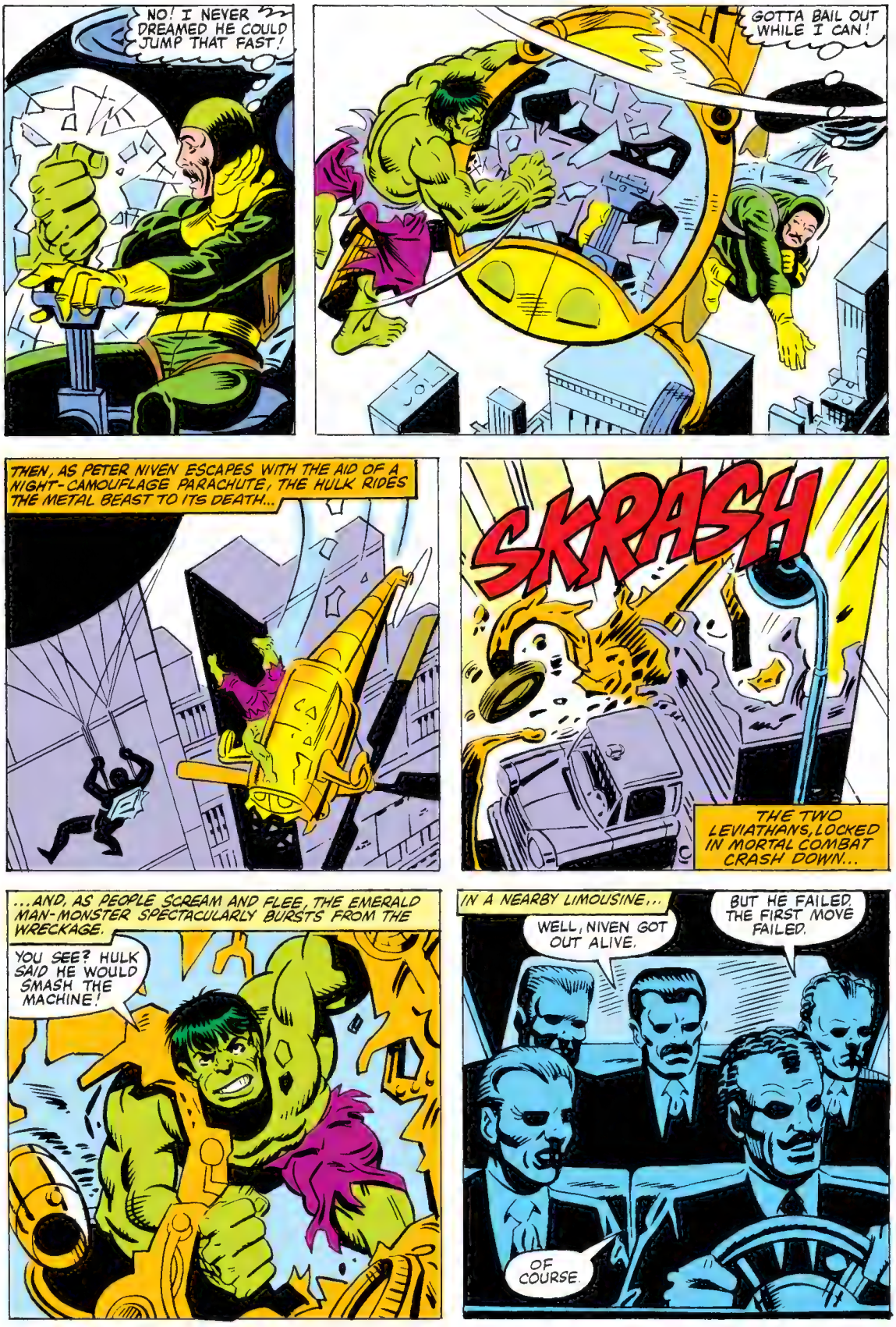

THERE HE GOES-- DOWN THAT ALLEY! AFTER HIM!
GOOD GRIEF! HE'S LEAPING... CRASHING THROUGH THOSE WALLS!

MOMENTARILY FREE OF PURSUIT, THE HULK EMERGES TO CONFRONT TWO TOWERING MONOLITHS...
AT LEAST HULK IS ALONE NOW, BUT WHERE--?

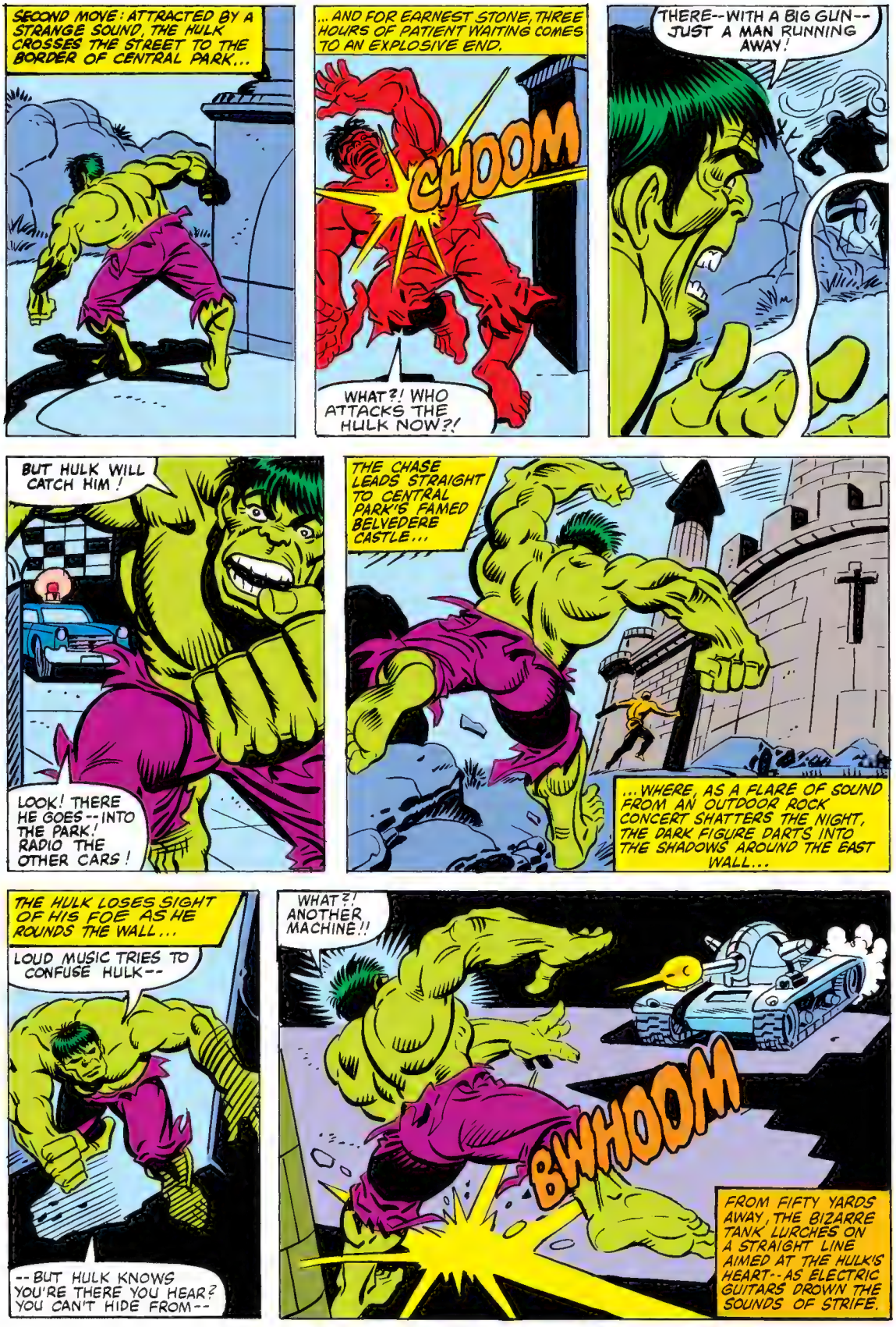
WHAT?!
CHOOM
AGAIN THEY ATTACK HULK?!


COMING FROM ROOF OF TALL BUILDING! BUT THAT WON'T STOP HULK!


NOTHING CAN STOP HULK -- NOT EVEN THE BIGGEST BUILDING IN THE WORLD!
HAH! THEY THINK THEY CAN HIDE UP HERE -- BUT HULK WILL FIND THEM...
HUH? NO ONE HERE...
WAIT! ON OTHER ROOF...
INSTANTLY, THE STRANGE HELICOPTER LIFTS OFF FROM ONE TWIN TOWER OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER...
VLZLHT
FLYING MACHINE TRIES TO KNOCK HULK OFF SIDE -- !
BUT HULK WILL SHOW THAT HE CAN ATTACK TOO!


NO! I NEVER DREAMED HE COULD JUMP THAT FAST!
GOTTA BAIL OUT WHILE I CAN!
THEN, AS PETER NIVEN ESCAPES WITH THE AID OF A NIGHT-CAMOUFLAGE PARACHUTE, THE HULK RIDES THE METAL BEAST TO ITS DEATH...
SKRASH
THE TWO LEVIATHANS, LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT CRASH DOWN...
...AND, AS PEOPLE SCREAM AND FLEE, THE EMERALD MAN-MONSTER SPECTACULARLY BURSTS FROM THE WRECKAGE.
YOU SEE? HULK SAID HE WOULD SMASH THE MACHINE!
IN A NEARBY LIMOUSINE...
WELL, NIVEN GOT OUT ALIVE.
BUT HE FAILED. THE FIRST MOVE FAILED.
OF COURSE.

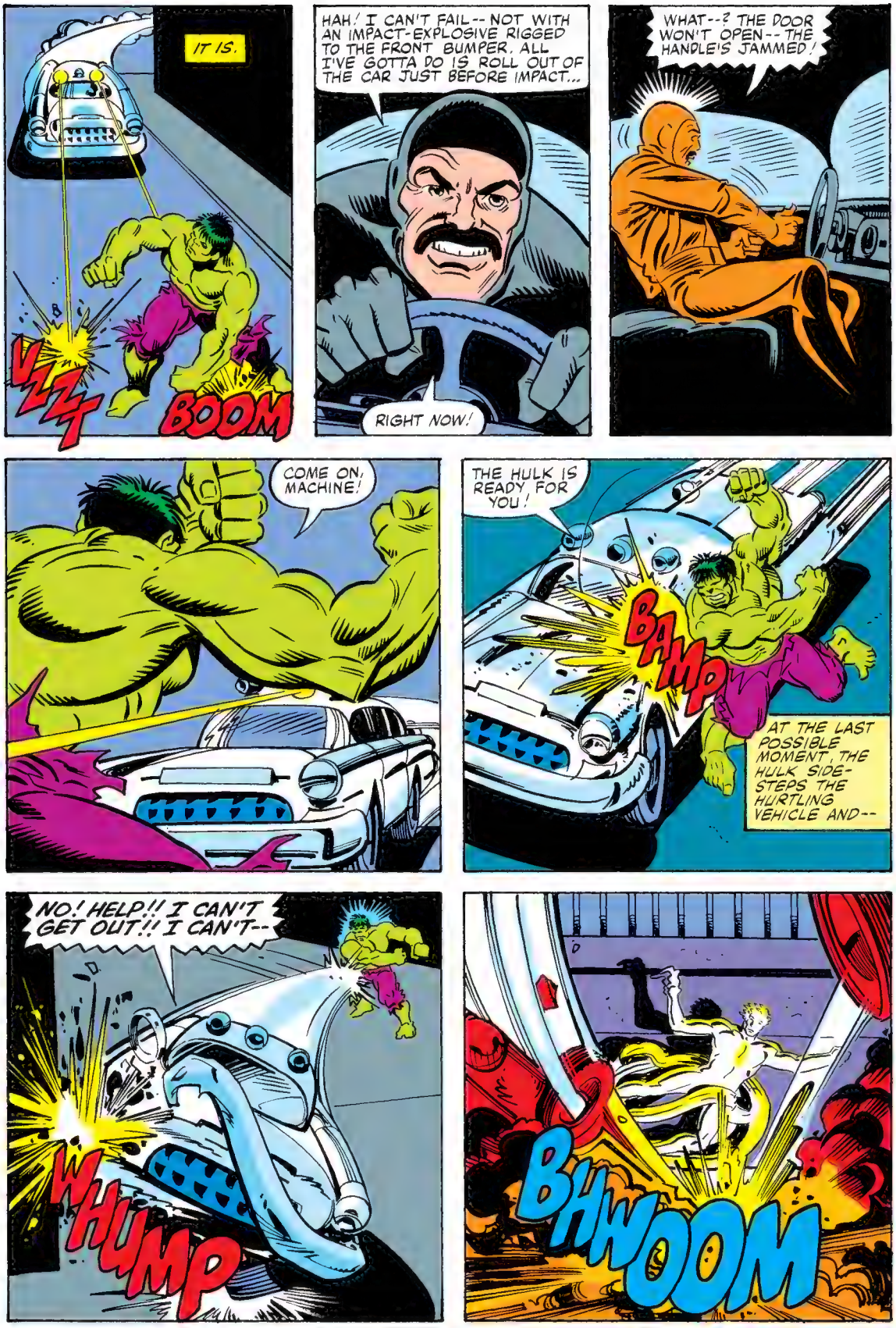
DEDUCTION: MORNING...
LUCKY MORE PEOPLE WEREN'T HURT, DETECTIVE WADE--AND WHAT A MESS. SOME OF THESE CARS ARE CRUSHED SO BAD, YOU COULDN'T SELL 'EM FOR SCRAP. BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE TAKING AN INTEREST, SIR.
NO MYSTERY HERE--THE HULK DID IT.
SURE, ED--JUST LIKE THE BUTLER, EH?
WELL, MR. KNIGHT'S RAG AGREES WITH YOU ANYWAY--BUT I DON'T BUY IT. THE HULK WAS INVOLVED, YES, BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH THERE WAS MORE TO IT THAN THAT.
DAILY CRUSADER
HULK MENACES CITY!
NO MARKINGS ON THE CRASHED HELICOPTER, BUT MAYBE THE LOCALE FITS IN. INVESTIGATE EVERY-ONE--EVERY FIRM--CONNECTED WITH THE WORLD TRADE CENTER.
BUT JOSH, DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH WORK THAT--
YES, GET ON IT.
DETECTIVE WADE--CAN I ASK WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED HERE?
UH, NOT MUCH, MS. SPARLING.
ALL I CAN SAY IS: THE GAME'S AFOOT... BUT I WISH I KNEW THE RULES.
STRATEGY: NIGHT ON LONG ISLAND...
THEY'VE BEEN HOUNDING THE HULK ALL DAY--AND HE JUST TURNS AND TRASHES A FEW CARS OR JUMPS AWAY.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT--AS LONG AS THEY DON'T DRIVE HIM OUT OF THE CITY BEFORE THE GAME'S FINISHED.
TALK ABOUT A CLOSE CALL--THE WIND BLEW ME ONTO A BROWN-STONE.
BUT YOU FAILED, NIVEN--YOU'RE OUT. TIME FOR STONE'S MOVE.
WHICH IS WHY I INSISTED ON HOSTING THIS MEETING HERE AT MY HOME. I'VE CHOSEN THE CASTLE IN CENTRAL PARK.
A BIT LITERAL, BUT EXCELLENT.
EARNEST STONE--PRESIDENT OF A LARGE CONSTRUC-TION AND REAL ESTATE FIRM, AND FORMER SMUGGLER --PREPARES FOR HIS TURN...


SECOND MOVE: ATTRACTED BY A STRANGE SOUND, THE HULK CROSSES THE STREET TO THE BORDER OF CENTRAL PARK...
...AND FOR EARNEST STONE, THREE HOURS OF PATIENT WAITING COMES TO AN EXPLOSIVE END.
CHOOM
WHAT?! WHO ATTACKS THE HULK NOW?!
THERE--WITH A BIG GUN--JUST A MAN RUNNING AWAY!
BUT HULK WILL CATCH HIM!
LOOK! THERE HE GOES--INTO THE PARK! RADIO THE OTHER CARS!
THE CHASE LEADS STRAIGHT TO CENTRAL PARK'S FAMED BELVEDERE CASTLE...
...WHERE, AS A FLARE OF SOUND FROM AN OUTDOOR ROCK CONCERT SHATTERS THE NIGHT, THE DARK FIGURE DARTS INTO THE SHADOWS AROUND THE EAST WALL...
THE HULK LOSES SIGHT OF HIS FOE AS HE ROUNDS THE WALL...
LOUD MUSIC TRIES TO CONFUSE HULK--
--BUT HULK KNOWS YOU'RE THERE YOU HEAR? YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM--
WHAT?! ANOTHER MACHINE!!
BWHOOM
FROM FIFTY YARDS AWAY, THE BIZARRE TANK LURCHES ON A STRAIGHT LINE AIMED AT THE HULK'S HEART--AS ELECTRIC GUITARS DROWN THE SOUNDS OF STRIFE.

THE HULK SURGES FORWARD TO MEET THE ATTACK AND FOR A MOMENT THERE IS STALEMATE, WITH NEITHER MONSTER NOR TANK GAINING OR LOSING GROUND.
...BUT THEN, SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, THE AWESOME POWER OF THE HULK BEGINS TO TELL...
...AND AS THE TANK IS DRIVEN BACK UNDER A BARRAGE OF HAMMERING BLOWS, THE CONCERT FALTERS...
LOOK!
FAR OUT! I THOUGHT PUNK ROCK WAS DEAD!
...UNTIL, FINALLY, SHRIEKING GUITARS AND THUNDERING DRUMS GIVE WAY TO CHAOS OF A DIFFERENT SOUND.
WHUMP
HULK WILL SMASH!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HE'S EVEN STRONGER THAN THEY SAY! GOT TO LOSE MYSELF IN THE CROWD BEFORE HE REALLY GOES BERSERK!
AND EVEN AS STONE CLAMBERS FROM HIS RUINED VEHICLE...
DON'T KNOW WHY MACHINES WANT TO HURT HULK-- BUT HULK DOESN'T LIKE IT!
SPLAMM
HULK HATES IT!
SKASH

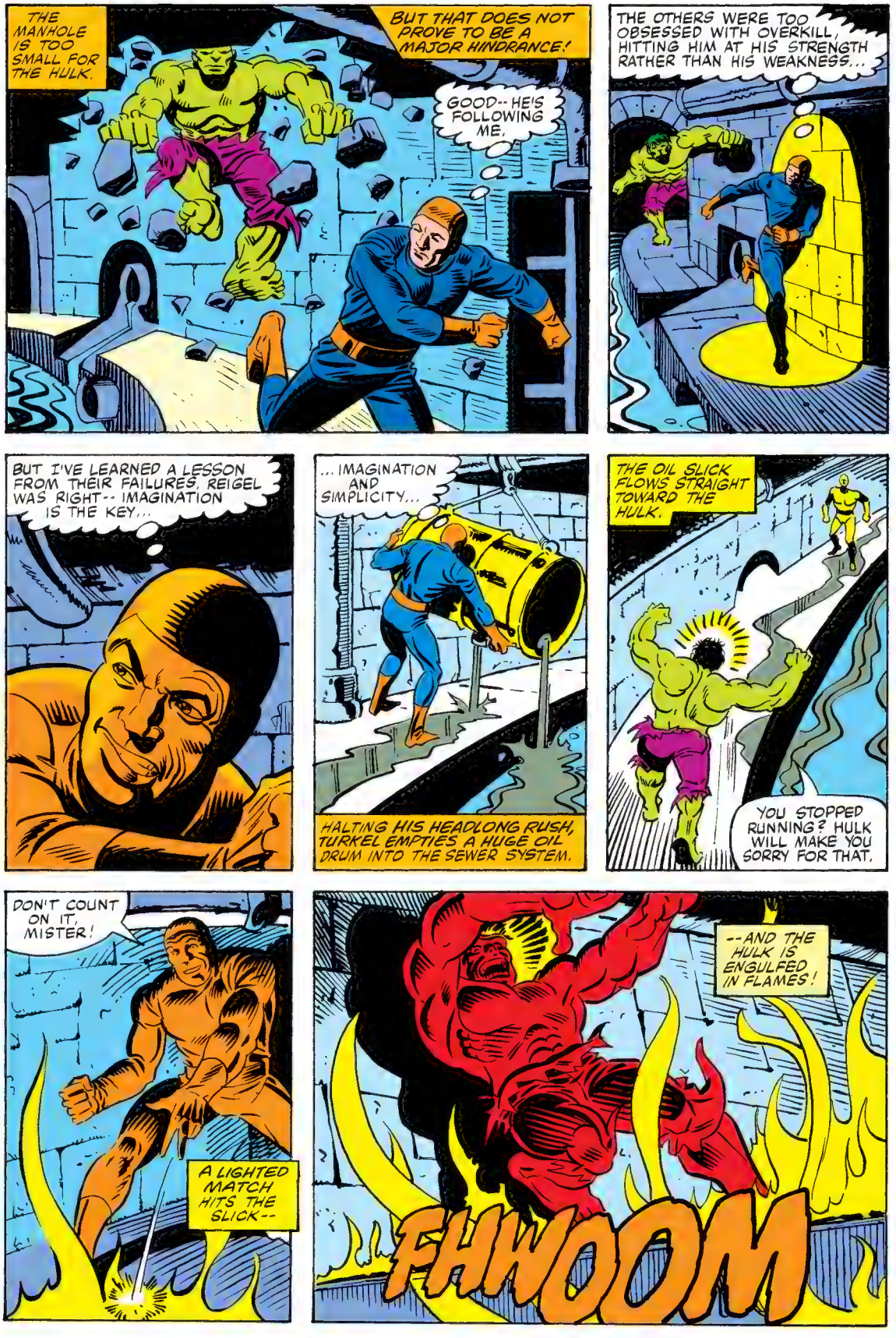
FINALLY, BORED WITH THE MAYHEM, THE HULK LEAVES THE PARK...
THERE HE GOES ... WONDER IF STONE GOT AWAY?
WE'LL FIND OUT TONIGHT-- BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE: HE FAILED.
YOU'LL ALL FAIL.
DEDUCTION: MORNING...
--AND SO, FROM THE SCENE OF LAST NIGHT'S ROCK CONCERT IN CENTRAL PARK, THE POLICE SEEM TO BE STUMPED AND UNABLE TO DO A THING.
THIS IS JESSICA SPARLING FOR ON-THE-SPOT-NEWS.
I WANT EVERY PART OF THIS TANK ANALYZED. I WANT TO KNOW WHERE IT WAS BUILT AND WHO BUILT IT.
THEN, YOU'RE CONVINCED, SIR, THAT THIS THING IS BIGGER THAN JUST THE HULK?
TAKE A LOOK AT THAT TANK, OFFICER. YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT'S NOT A NORMAL PIECE OF HARDWARE. THE HULK'S ONLY A PAWN IN SOME LARGER GAME--
--AND THE CITIZENS OF THIS CITY ARE BEING ENDANGERED BY THAT GAME. IT'S GOT TO BE STOPPED BEFORE THE NEXT MOVE KILLS SOMEONE!
STRATEGY: NIGHT...
I TELL YOU, IT'S FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN I THOUGHT! THAT CREATURE IS UNREAL, STRONGER THAN--
WE KNEW THAT IN THE BEGINNING, STONE. BESIDES, WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? YOUR MOVE IS FINISHED!
NOW IT'S FRANKLIN'S TURN, OBVIOUSLY-- UNLESS HE'S SCARED TOO.
NO... I'LL GO THROUGH WITH IT. I'VE CHOSEN ROCKEFELLER CENTER.
BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH--? OH, I SEE. POOR CHOICE-- BUT DO WHAT YOU CAN WITH IT. WE'LL BE WATCHING.
FRANKLIN KNIGHT-- OWNER OF A "CRUSADING NEWSPAPER" AND FORMER SOLDIER-OF-FORTUNE-- EXITS.

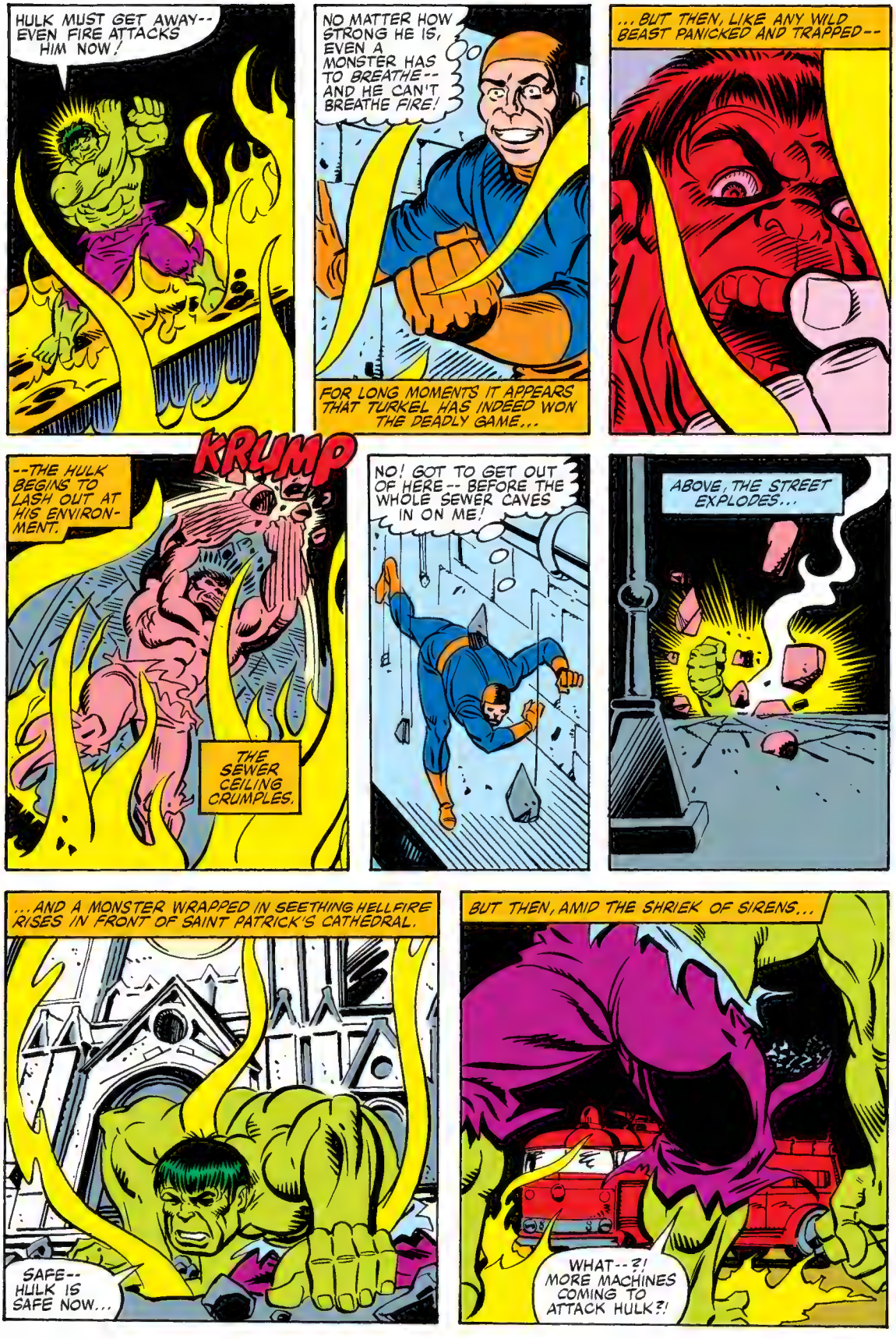
THIRD MOVE! SEVERAL BLOCKS FROM ROCKEFELLER CENTER...
STILL GOT HIM IN SIGHT--5TH AVENUE AND 39TH STREET...
SURE YOU DON'T WANT US TO TAKE ANY ACTION?
THE COMMISIONER'S ORDERS STAND. NO PROVOCATION OR--
BUT THEN--
SKREE
CHOOM
ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE HULK!
COME BACK HERE!
BAM
WHA--! WHAT'S THAT STRANGE CAR TRYING TO DO?
I DUNNO-- BUT IT BLASTED A TIRE! WE CAN'T FOLLOW!
HULK WILL SHOW HIM!
THIS TIME HULK WILL BE SMART-- BY JUMPING OVER BUILDINGS--
--AND LANDING IN FRONT OF MACHINE!
BUT THE STREET IN FRONT OF ROCKEFELLER CENTER IS DESERTED.
THE HULK PAUSES, WAITING, WONDERING...
NOW WHAT HAPPENED TO STUPID CAR? IT SHOULD BE HERE.

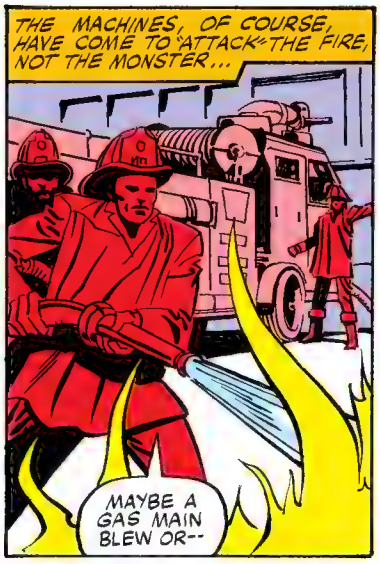

IT IS.
VZZT
BOOM
HAH! I CAN'T FAIL-- NOT WITH AN IMPACT-EXPLOSIVE RIGGED TO THE FRONT BUMPER. ALL I'VE GOTTA DO IS ROLL OUT OF THE CAR JUST BEFORE IMPACT...
RIGHT NOW!
WHAT--? THE DOOR WON'T OPEN-- THE HANDLE'S JAMMED!
COME ON, MACHINE!
THE HULK IS READY FOR YOU!
BAMP
AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, THE HULK SIDE-STEPS THE HURTLING VEHICLE AND--
NO! HELP!! I CAN'T GET OUT!! I CAN'T--
WHUMP
BHWOOOM

HAH! MACHINE KILLED ITSELF!
THERE HE IS!
PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON HIM!
WHAT--? WHO CHASES HULK NOW?
FIGHT IS OVER!
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST LEAVE HULK ALONE?!
THE WRECK'S BURNIN' DOWN IN THE ICE-RINK!
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A MAN DOWN THERE!
DEDUCTION: SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
--PREVIOUS RUMORS THAT THE GOVERNOR MIGHT CALL OUT THE NATIONAL GUARD HAVE BEEN VERIFIED, BUT IT IS NOW THOUGHT THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD ONLY INFLAME THE SITUATION.
INDEED, SOME OFFICIALS ARE RECOMMENDING THAT THE HULK BE *LEFT ALONE*. ONE OF THEM IS POLICE DETECTIVE JOSHUA WADE. WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN, DETECTIVE WADE?
SURE, THE HULK DOES NOT SEEM TO BE VIOLENT UNLESS AND UNTIL PROVOKED.
BUT THE VIOLENCE THESE PAST THREE NIGHTS--
--WAS PROVOKED. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY FOR THE TIME BEING.
DETECTIVE WADE--WAIT A MINUTE. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU AWAY FROM THE CAMERAS.
STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD, HOW ABOUT IF I BUY YOU A DRINK AND WE CAN DISCUSS THIS FURTHER.

STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD, MAYBE-- WHEN THIS IS SETTLED, RIGHT NOW, MS. SPARLING, THAT MAN'S IN A COMA --
--WHICH MEANS WE'RE NO LONGER PLAYING A GAME. MY FIRST PROBLEM IS TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS-- HIS IDENTITY MAY LEAD US TO THE OTHERS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE ARE ANY OTHERS? ALL THREE ATTACKS HAVE BEEN SIMILAR. MAYBE THE INJURED MAN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THEM.
MAYBE, BUT MY GUT TELLS ME OTHERWISE.
STRATEGY: THE NEXT NIGHT...
MAYBE WE SHOULD QUIT, REIGEL--KNIGHT MAY DIE...
KNIGHT WAS A FOOL! HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF! HIS WHOLE MOVE WAS CHILDISH, UNIMAGINITIVE-- DOOMED TO FAILURE!
BESIDES, EVERY TIME YOU PLAY A GAME LIKE THIS, YOU'VE GOT TO EXPECT SOME MEN TO FALL. WE WANTED DANGER.
NOW WE'VE GOT IT. ONE MAN HAS FALLEN. THIS IS THE TURNING POINT.
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO PROVE WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN OLD AND SOFT! ARE WE GOING TO QUIT-- OR SEE IT THROUGH?
THE OTHERS MEEKLY, QUIETLY, AGREE TO GO ON.
GOOD. YOU'RE NEXT TURKEL.
I...I'VE CHOSEN SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.
OBVIOUSLY.
GIDEON TURKEL--CHAIRMAN OF A MULTI-NATIONAL CONGLOMERATE AND ONCE A CORRUPT MISSIONARY-- STEELS HIMSELF FOR THE--
--FOURTH MOVE:
HULK FEELS... TIRED...
INDEED, THE CHANGE TO BANNER IS IMMINENT...
...BUT IMMEDIATELY SQUELCHED.
CHOOM

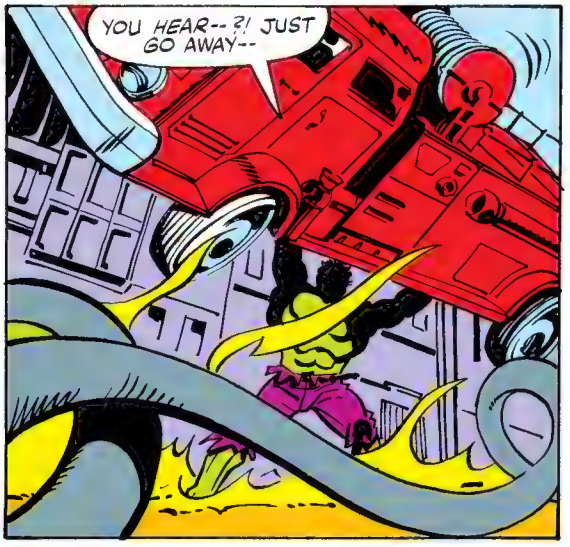

THE MANHOLE IS TOO SMALL FOR THE HULK.
BUT THAT DOES NOT PROVE TO BE A MAJOR HINDRANCE!
GOOD-- HE'S FOLLOWING ME.
THE OTHERS WERE TOO OBSESSED WITH OVERKILL, HITTING HIM AT HIS STRENGTH RATHER THAN HIS WEAKNESS...
BUT I'VE LEARNED A LESSON FROM THEIR FAILURES. REIGEL WAS RIGHT-- IMAGINATION IS THE KEY...
... IMAGINATION AND SIMPLICITY...
HALTING HIS HEADLONG RUSH, TURKEL EMPTIES A HUGE OIL DRUM INTO THE SEWER SYSTEM.
THE OIL SLICK FLOWS STRAIGHT TOWARD THE HULK.
YOU STOPPED RUNNING? HULK WILL MAKE YOU SORRY FOR THAT.
DON'T COUNT ON IT, MISTER!
A LIGHTED MATCH HITS THE SLICK--
--AND THE HULK IS ENGULFED IN FLAMES!
FHWOOM

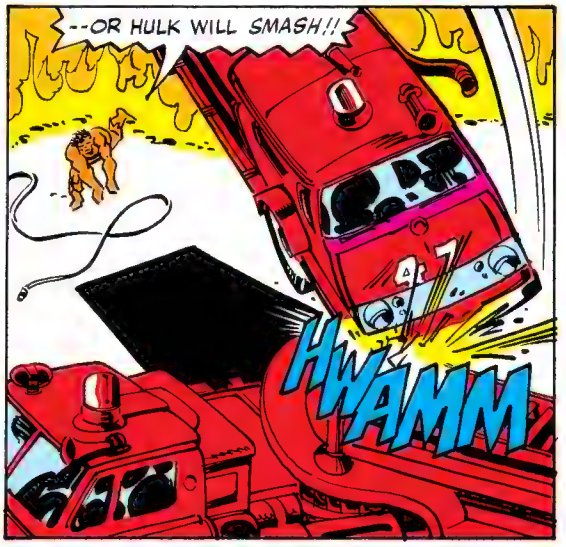

HULK MUST GET AWAY-- EVEN FIRE ATTACKS HIM NOW!
NO MATTER HOW STRONG HE IS, EVEN A MONSTER HAS TO BREATHE-- AND HE CAN'T BREATHE FIRE!
FOR LONG MOMENTS IT APPEARS THAT TURKEL HAS INDEED WON THE DEADLY GAME...
...BUT THEN, LIKE ANY WILD BEAST PANICKED AND TRAPPED--
--THE HULK BEGINS TO LASH OUT AT HIS ENVIRONMENT.
KRUMP
THE SEWER CEILING CRUMPLES.
NO! GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE-- BEFORE THE WHOLE SEWER CAVES IN ON ME!
ABOVE, THE STREET EXPLODES...
...AND A MONSTER WRAPPED IN SEETHING HELLFIRE RISES IN FRONT OF SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.
SAFE-- HULK IS SAFE NOW...
BUT THEN, AMID THE SHRIEK OF SIRENS...
WHAT--?! MORE MACHINES COMING TO ATTACK HULK?!

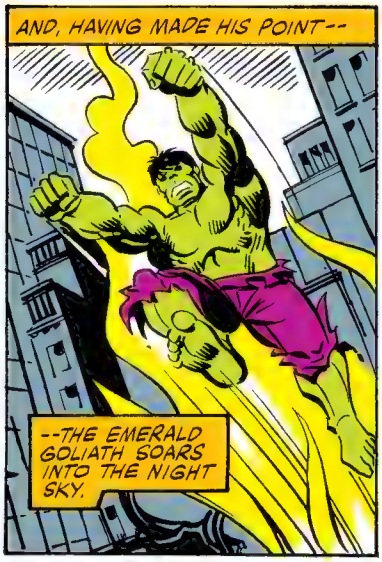

THE MACHINES, OF COURSE, HAVE COME TO "ATTACK" THE FIRE, NOT THE MONSTER...
MAYBE A GAS MAIN BLEW OR--

...BUT THE HULK IS INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING SUCH A SUBTLE DIFFERENCE.
LOOK OUT!!

LEAVE HULK ALONE!!


YOU HEAR--?! JUST GO AWAY--

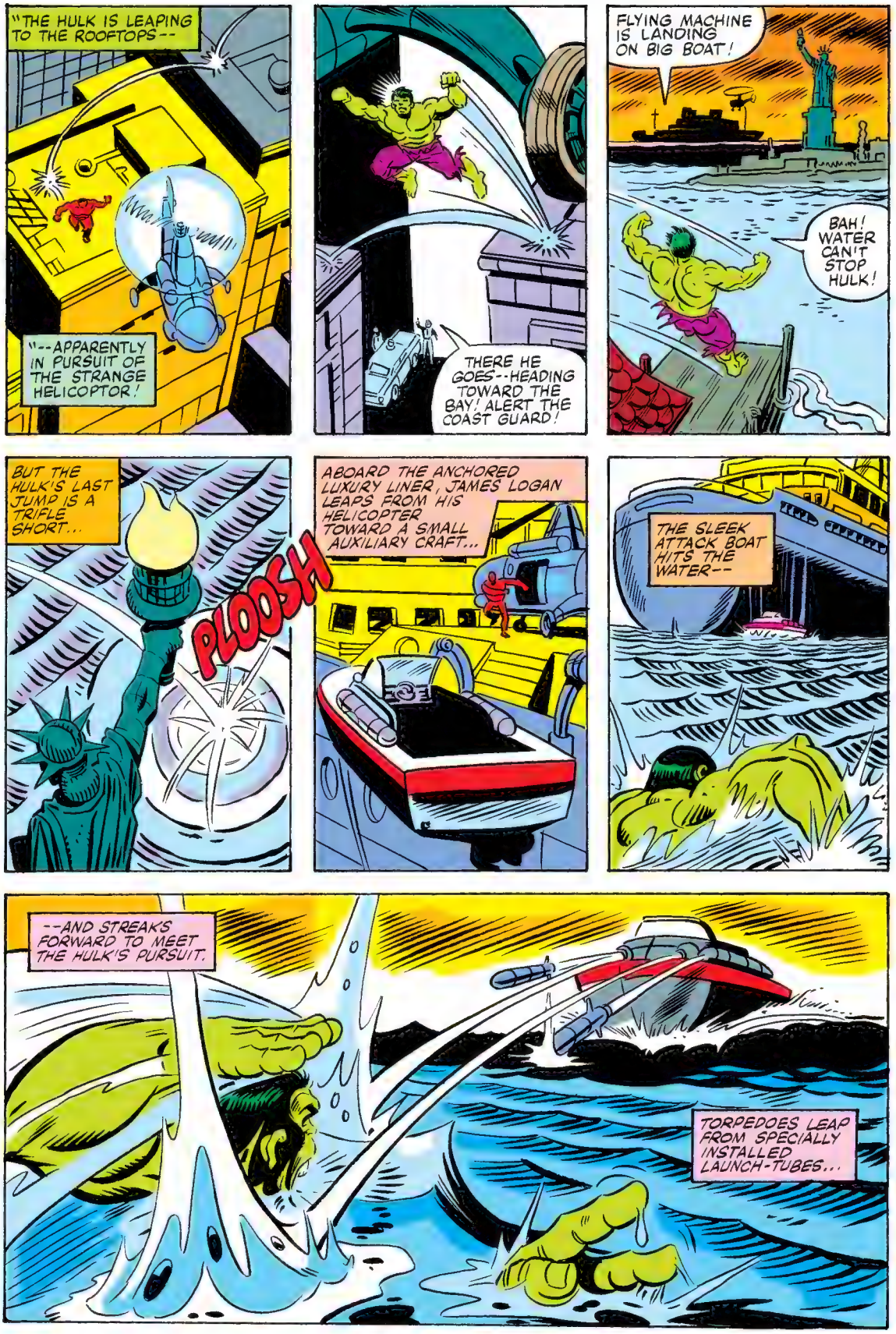

--OR HULK WILL SMASH!!
HWAMM

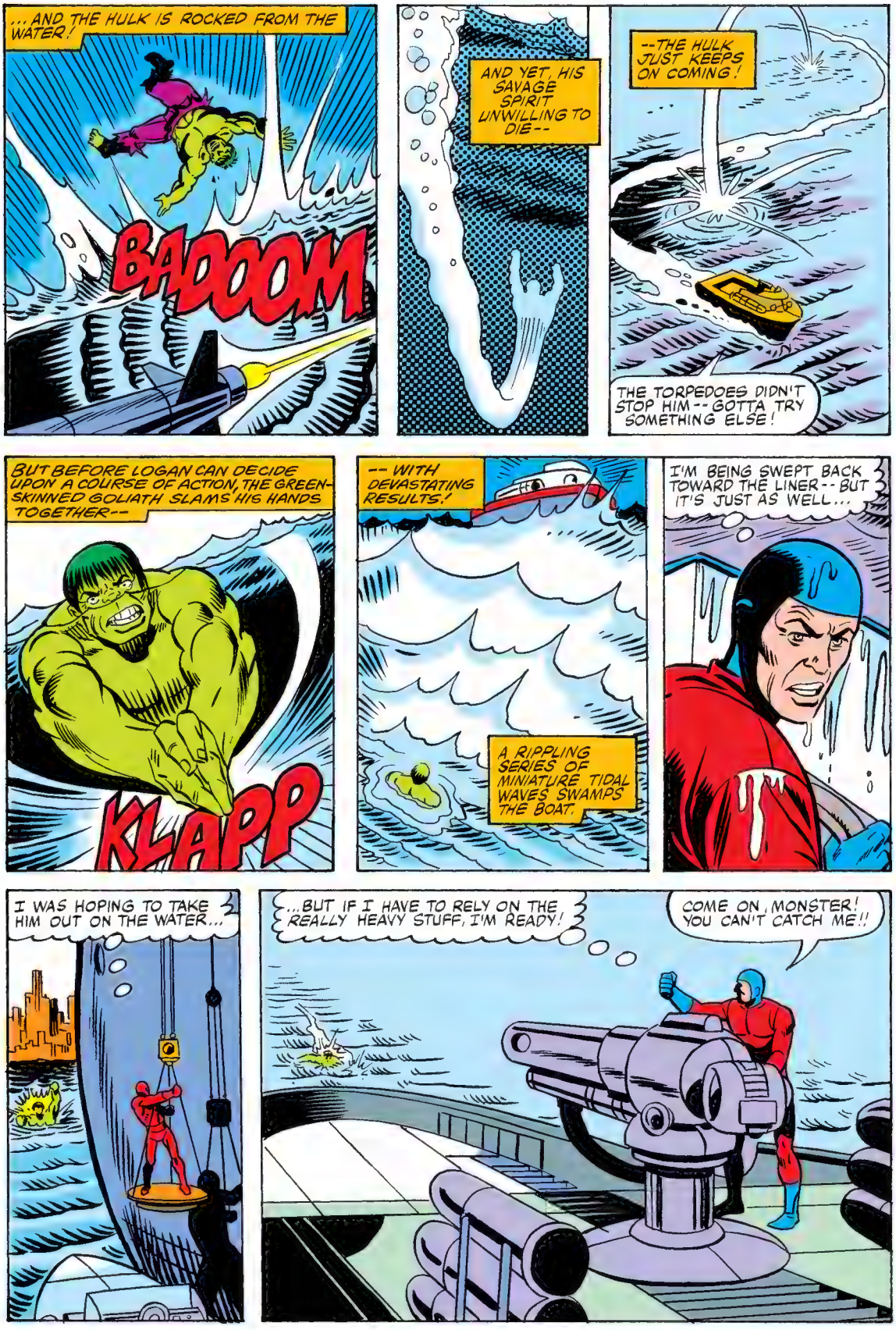

AND, HAVING MADE HIS POINT--
--THE EMERALD GOLIATH SOARS INTO THE NIGHT SKY.

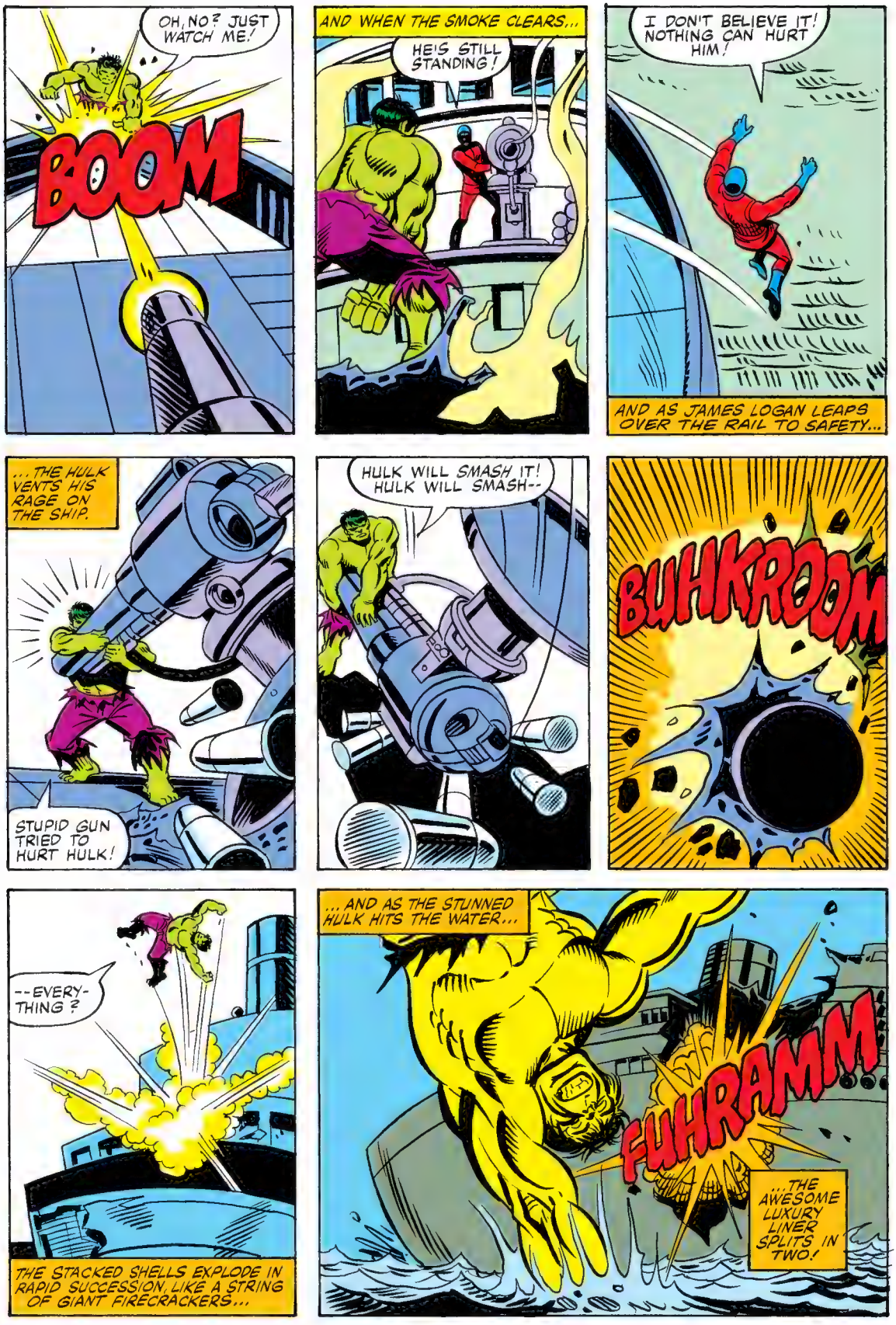
DEDUCTION: JOSH WADE'S OFFICE, SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
YEAH, YEAH--WELL, AT LEAST THE FIRE'S OUT. NOW I WANT YOU TO FIND THE HULK AGAIN AND FIND HIM FAST!

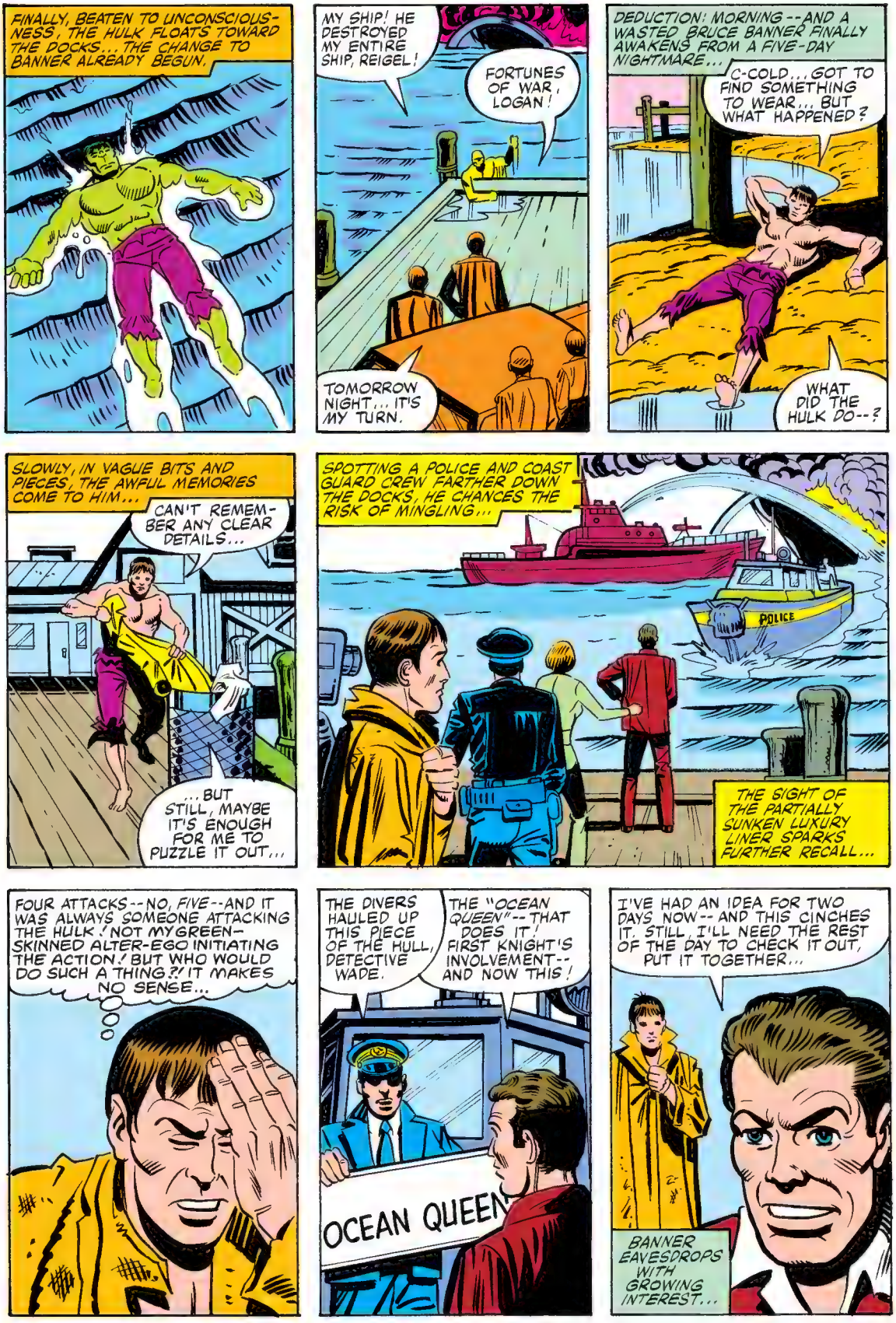
AND THIS TIME DON'T LOSE HIM! WE'VE BEEN ONE MOVE TOO LATE EVERY TIME!

DETECTIVE WADE--WE'VE GOT AN I.D. ON THAT GUY IN THE THIRD ATTACK--FRANKLIN KNIGHT. HERE'S THE FILE ON HIM.
WHAT?! THE OWNER OF THE DAILY CRUSADER--?
YEP.
WADE SLOUCHES IN HIS SEAT, STUNNED, LOST IN DEEP THOUGHT, WRESTLING WITH THE WILDEST TWIST YET...
STRATEGY: THE NEWS OF TURKEL'S NEAR-SUCCESS HAS WIPED AWAY FORMER FEARS...
YOU'RE NEXT, LOGAN, BUT YOU'LL FAIL TOO.
THIS GAME IS GOING TO THE WIRE.
MAYBE SO...
...BUT I'VE BROUGHT THE FULL POWER AND RESOURCES OF MY SHIPPING FIRM TO BEAR ON THIS GAMBIT. I'VE CHOSEN THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.
YOU'LL STILL FAIL.
JAMES LOGAN--SHIPPING MAGNATE AND FORMER GUNRUNNER FOR THE NAZIS--MERELY SMIRKS.
FIFTH MOVE: ON THIS FIFTH NIGHT OF RAMPAGE, THE POLICE HAVE AGAIN LOCATED THE HULK IN LOWER MANHATTAN NEAR THE DOCKS.
"STATIONED IN ALLEYS AND ON ROOFTOPS, THE POLICE ARE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH THROUGHOUT THE TENSE DRAMA AND--
"WAIT! A HELICOPTER IS APPEARING ON THE SCENE, PERHAPS A POLICE HELI--
"NO! IT'S NOT A POLICE HELICOPTER!
CHOOM
"IT'S ATTACKING THE HULK--NO MORE THAN TWO BLOCKS FROM WHERE I'M MAKING THIS REPORT!


"THE HULK IS LEAPING TO THE ROOFTOPS--
"--APPARENTLY IN PURSUIT OF THE STRANGE HELICOPTOR!
THERE HE GOES--HEADING TOWARD THE BAY! ALERT THE COAST GUARD!
FLYING MACHINE IS LANDING ON BIG BOAT!
BAH! WATER CAN'T STOP HULK!
BUT THE HULK'S LAST JUMP IS A TRIFLE SHORT...
PLOOSH
ABOARD THE ANCHORED LUXURY LINER, JAMES LOGAN LEAPS FROM HIS HELICOPTER TOWARD A SMALL AUXILIARY CRAFT...
THE SLEEK ATTACK BOAT HITS THE WATER--
--AND STREAK'S FORWARD TO MEET THE HULK'S PURSUIT.
TORPEDOES LEAP FROM SPECIALLY INSTALLED LAUNCH-TUBES...

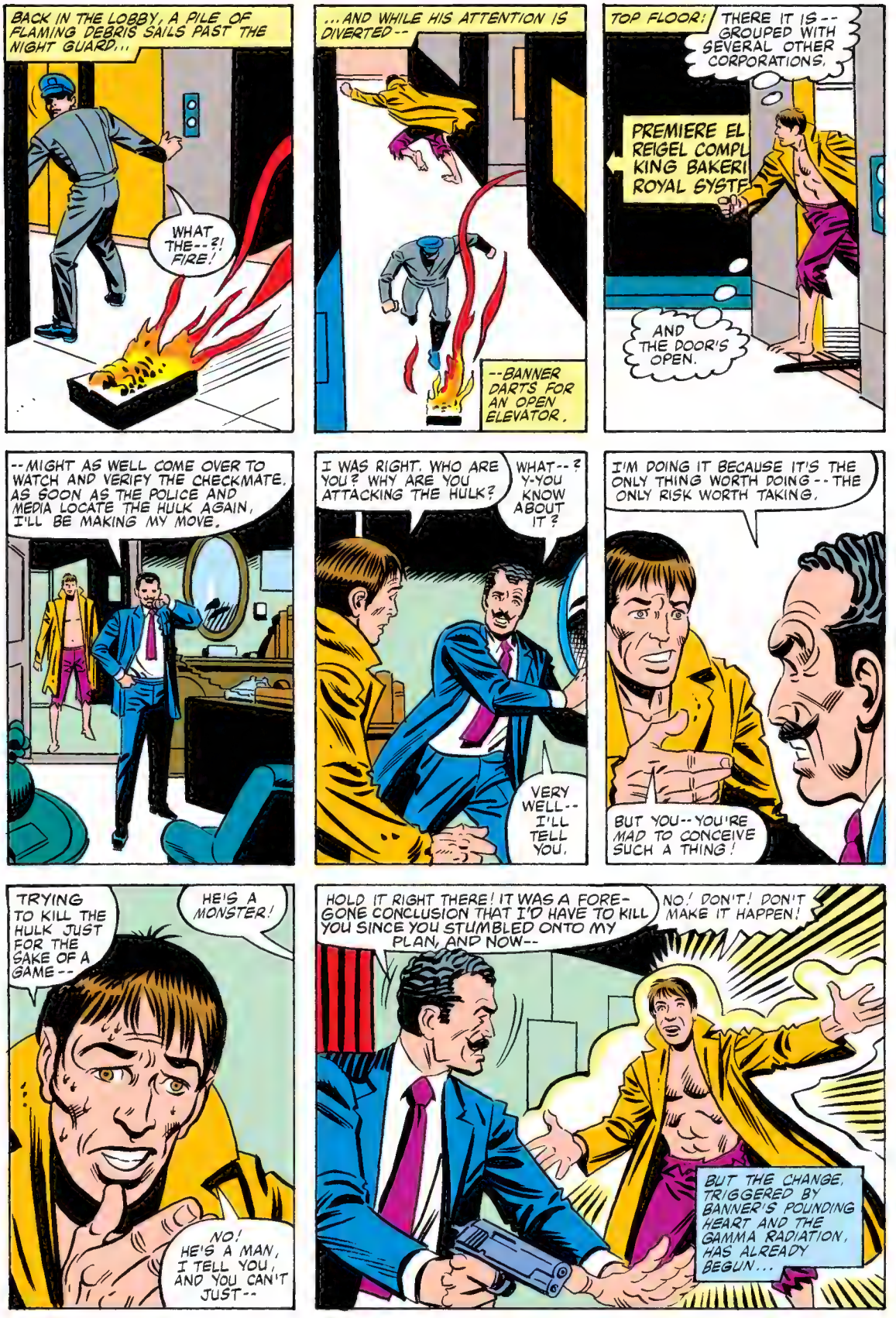

...AND THE HULK IS ROCKED FROM THE WATER!
BADOOOM
AND YET, HIS SAVAGE SPIRIT UNWILLING TO DIE--
--THE HULK JUST KEEPS ON COMING!
THE TORPEDOES DIDN'T STOP HIM--GOTTA TRY SOMETHING ELSE!
BUT BEFORE LOGAN CAN DECIDE UPON A COURSE OF ACTION, THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH SLAMS HIS HANDS TOGETHER--
KLAPP
--WITH DEVASTATING RESULTS!
A RIPPLING SERIES OF MINIATURE TIDAL WAVES SWAMPS THE BOAT.
I'M BEING SWEPT BACK TOWARD THE LINER--BUT IT'S JUST AS WELL...
I WAS HOPING TO TAKE HIM OUT ON THE WATER...
...BUT IF I HAVE TO RELY ON THE REALLY HEAVY STUFF, I'M READY!
COME ON, MONSTER! YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!!


OH, NO? JUST WATCH ME!
BOOM
AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...
HE'S STILL STANDING!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! NOTHING CAN HURT HIM!
AND AS JAMES LOGAN LEAPS OVER THE RAIL TO SAFETY...
...THE HULK VENTS HIS RAGE ON THE SHIP.
STUPID GUN TRIED TO HURT HULK!
HULK WILL SMASH IT! HULK WILL SMASH--
BUHKROOM
--EVERY-THING?
THE STACKED SHELLS EXPLODE IN RAPID SUCCESSION, LIKE A STRING OF GIANT FIRECRACKERS...
...AND AS THE STUNNED HULK HITS THE WATER...
FUHRAMM
...THE AWESOME LUXURY LINER SPLITS IN TWO!


FINALLY, BEATEN TO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, THE HULK FLOATS TOWARD THE DOCKS... THE CHANGE TO BANNER ALREADY BEGUN.
MY SHIP! HE DESTROYED MY ENTIRE SHIP, REIGEL!
FORTUNES OF WAR, LOGAN!
TOMORROW NIGHT... IT'S MY TURN.
DEDUCTION: MORNING--AND A WASTED BRUCE BANNER FINALLY AWAKENS FROM A FIVE-DAY NIGHTMARE...
C-COLD... GOT TO FIND SOMETHING TO WEAR... BUT WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT DID THE HULK DO--?
SLOWLY, IN VAGUE BITS AND PIECES, THE AWFUL MEMORIES COME TO HIM...
CAN'T REMEMBER ANY CLEAR DETAILS...
...BUT STILL, MAYBE IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME TO PUZZLE IT OUT...
SPOTTING A POLICE AND COAST GUARD CREW FARTHER DOWN THE DOCKS, HE CHANCES THE RISK OF MINGLING...
POLICE
THE SIGHT OF THE PARTIALLY SUNKEN LUXURY LINER SPARKS FURTHER RECALL...
FOUR ATTACKS--NO, FIVE--AND IT WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE ATTACKING THE HULK! NOT MY GREEN-SKINNED ALTER-EGO INITIATING THE ACTION! BUT WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?! IT MAKES NO SENSE...
THE DIVERS HAULED UP THIS PIECE OF THE HULL, DETECTIVE WADE.
THE "OCEAN QUEEN"--THAT DOES IT! FIRST KNIGHT'S INVOLVEMENT--AND NOW THIS!
OCEAN QUEEN
I'VE HAD AN IDEA FOR TWO DAYS NOW--AND THIS CINCHES IT. STILL, I'LL NEED THE REST OF THE DAY TO CHECK IT OUT, PUT IT TOGETHER...
BANNER EAVESDROPS WITH GROWING INTEREST...

THEN YOU WERE RIGHT, SIR. THE HULK COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE BEHIND ALL THIS. THIS IS A SOPHISTICATED OPERATION.
YES...
I'VE BEEN CONVINCED FROM THE VERY START. THE HULK IS A MERE PAWN-- COMPLETELY INNOCENT. ARRANGE A MEETING IN MY OFFICE TONIGHT AT SEVEN -- AND MAKE SURE COMMISSIONER STEVENS IS PRESENT.
KNIGHT AND QUEEN--I'VE CRACKED IT.
YES, OF COURSE -- IT FITS. AND THE KING IS NEXT.
BUT WHAT'S THE KING OF NEW YORK--?
STRATEGY:
BROUGHT A CAKE FOR THE OCCASION -- FRESH FROM THE BROOKLYN OVENS IN KINGS COUNTY.
KING BAKERY
IT'S MY TURN, GENTLEMEN. ALL HAVE FALLEN EXCEPT THE KING.
ME!
AND THE FINAL GAMBIT IS-- KING TAKES QUEEN.
AND YOU'VE CHOSEN THE HEADQUARTERS OF YOUR ENTERPRISES?
OF COURSE -- THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.
CHARLES REIGEL -- ELECTRONICS WIZARD AND FORMER LEADER OF NAZI SERVICE ORGANIZATION -- LAUGHS.
FINAL MOVE: BRUCE BANNER SHIVERS AT THE FOOT OF MANHATTAN'S PREMIER LANDMARK...
IT'S GOT TO BE THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING -- IT FITS THE LANDMARK PATTERN AND IT WAS ONCE CALLED "KING OF THE SKYSCRAPERS."
NOW I'VE GOT TO GET IN THERE WHILE I'M STILL BANNER -- FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND THIS AND WHY THEY'RE DOING IT.
FOR FUN--? BUT IT MAKES NO SENSE, WADE!
IT'S A GAME, COMMISSIONER -- DON'T YOU SEE?
THESE ARE DANGEROUS MEN -- LUNATICS!

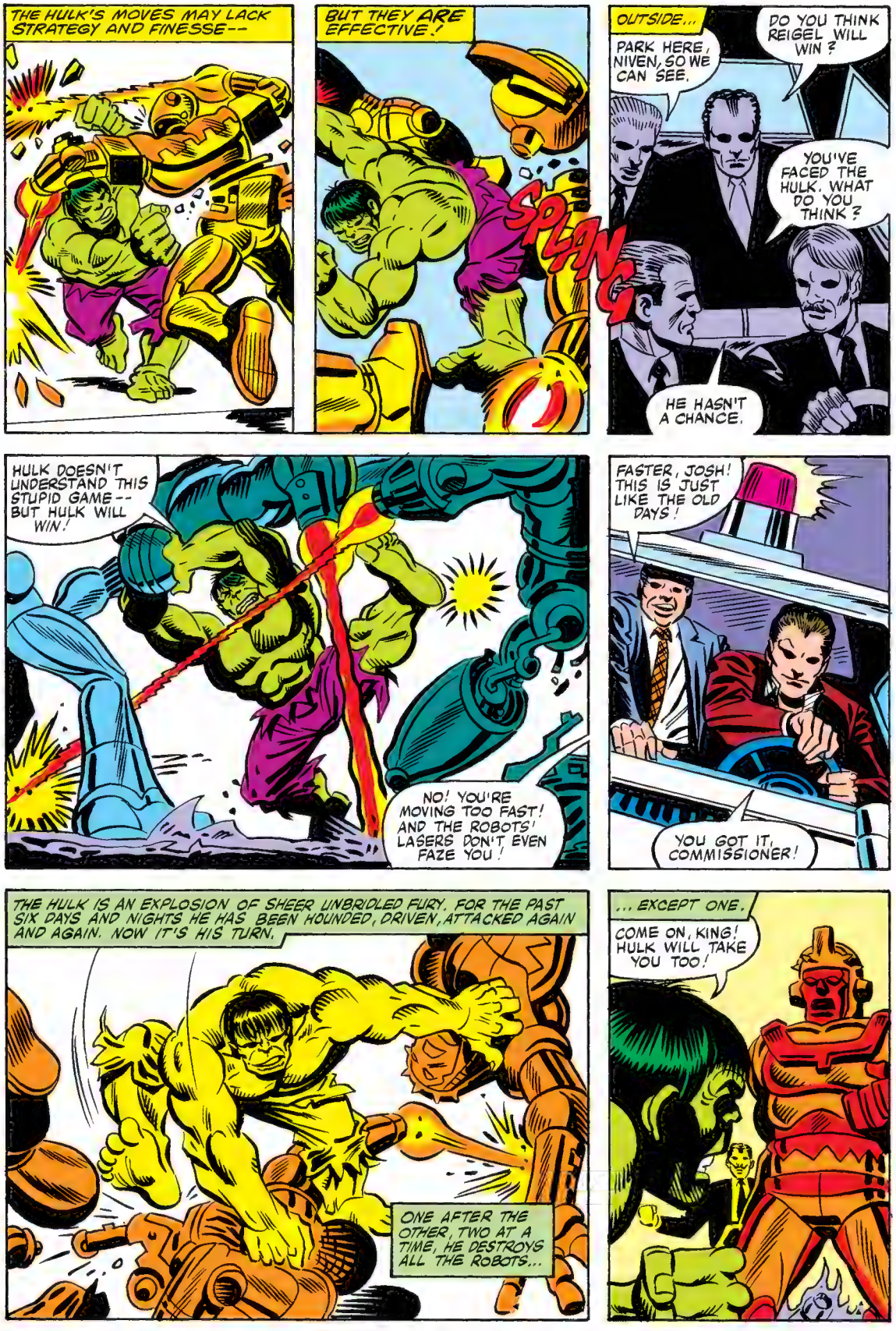
THESE ARE MOST LIKELY MEN WITH PAST RECORDS OF CRIME OR MILITARY SERVICE, EXCITING EXPLOITS--MEN WHO ARE NOW EXTREMELY WEALTHY, BUT EXTREMELY BORED.
SO FAR WE'VE COME UP WITH TWO SUSPECTS, MEN KNOWN TO SOCIALIZE WITH KNIGHT AND WHO ALSO FIT THE PATTERN--GIDEON TURKEL AND JAMES LOGAN.
IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE, IF WE CAN UNTANGLE THE SNARL OF INTERLOCKING HOLDINGS, THAT LOGAN IS THE REAL OWNER OF THE OCEAN QUEEN.
BUT A MERE GAME OF CHESS?
IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION THAT FITS. THE HULK IS THE ULTIMATE PRIZE--THE ENEMY "KING"--THE MOST DANGEROUS FOE ALIVE.
PROOF, WADE! WHERE'S THE PROOF?
RIGHT HERE--THESE ARE THE LOCALES OF EACH ATTACK...
THE EMPIRE STATE LOBBY...
"KING BAKERY--TOP FLOOR", THAT'S GOT TO BE IT!
CAN I--AHEM!--HELP YOU?
OH, UH, NO THANKS!
THEN YOU'LL BE LEAVING, WON'T YOU?
GREAT. NOW HOW DO I GET PAST THE GUARD?
WADE'S OFFICE..
DON'T YOU SEE? FIRST THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, THEN THE CASTLE IN CENTRAL PARK--
--ROCKEFELLER CENTER, SAINT PAT'S CATHEDRAL, AND THE STATUE OF LIBERTY--REPRESENTING PAWNS ROOK, KNIGHT, BISHOP, AND QUEEN!
COME NOW, WADE, THAT'S GROPING A BIT, ISN'T IT?


BACK IN THE LOBBY, A PILE OF FLAMING DEBRIS SAILS PAST THE NIGHT GUARD...
WHAT THE--?! FIRE!
...AND WHILE HIS ATTENTION IS DIVERTED--
--BANNER DARTS FOR AN OPEN ELEVATOR.
TOP FLOOR!
THERE IT IS-- GROUPED WITH SEVERAL OTHER CORPORATIONS,
PREMIERE EL
REIGEL COMPU
KING BAKERI
ROYAL SYSTE
AND THE DOOR'S OPEN.
--MIGHT AS WELL COME OVER TO WATCH AND VERIFY THE CHECKMATE. AS SOON AS THE POLICE AND MEDIA LOCATE THE HULK AGAIN, I'LL BE MAKING MY MOVE.
I WAS RIGHT. WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING THE HULK?
WHAT--? Y-YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
VERY WELL-- I'LL TELL YOU.
I'M DOING IT BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY THING WORTH DOING-- THE ONLY RISK WORTH TAKING.
BUT YOU--YOU'RE MAD TO CONCEIVE SUCH A THING!
TRYING TO KILL THE HULK JUST FOR THE SAKE OF A GAME--
HE'S A MONSTER!
NO! HE'S A MAN, I TELL YOU, AND YOU CAN'T JUST--
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! IT WAS A FORE-GONE CONCLUSION THAT I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU SINCE YOU STUMBLED ONTO MY PLAN, AND NOW--
NO! DON'T! DON'T MAKE IT HAPPEN!
BUT THE CHANGE, TRIGGERED BY BANNER'S POUNDING HEART AND THE GAMMA RADIATION, HAS ALREADY BEGUN...

YOU! YOU'RE THE HULK!
BRAM
YES -- I AM HULK! AND HULK WILL SMASH!
NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
GOT TO REACH THE LAB -- GET TO THE CONTROLS --
-- WHERE I CAN COMMAND MY ARMY!
INSIDE THE INNER COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS LAB, THE HULK FREEZES IN WONDER...
IT'S NOT THE WAY I PLANNED IT -- BUT MY ARMY WILL STILL DEFEAT YOU!
FIRST -- THE PAWN!
ACROSS TOWN, JOSH WADE TRIES TO SELL HIS PITCH: "THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, COMMISSIONER -- PLAIN AND FEATURELESS TOWERS --
"-- THE ONLY MULTIPLE LANDMARK, JUST LIKE THE MULTIPLE PAWNS!"
THE ROOK!
WADE CONTINUES: "AND THE CASTLE IN CENTRAL PARK --!"
R-ROOK... ?
"IT CORRESPONDS TO THE CASTLE-PIECE IN CHESS -- THE ROOK!"

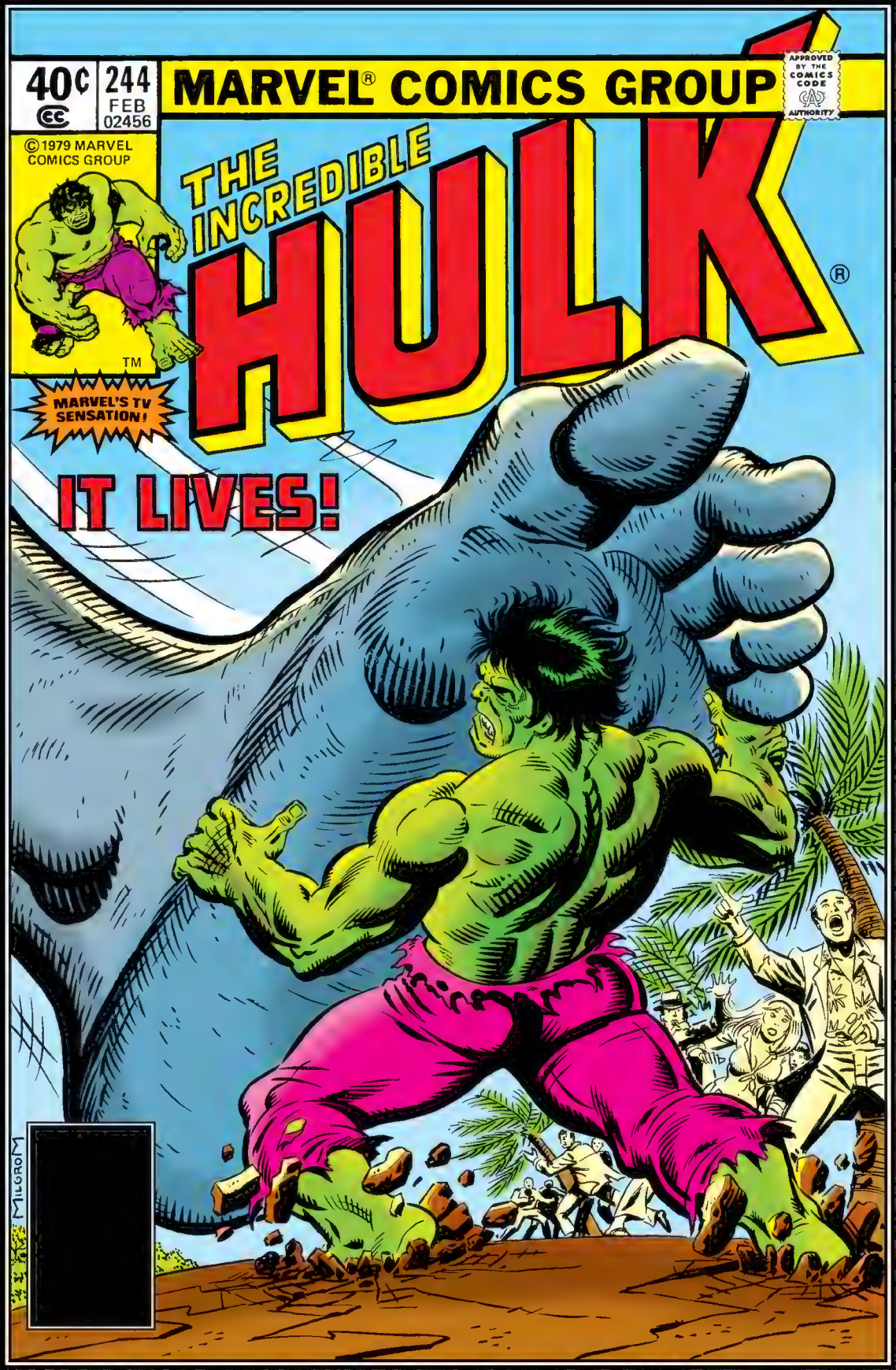
AND MY NEXT CYBERNETIC MASTERPIECE-- THE KNIGHT!
WADE: "THEN ROCKEFELLER CENTER WITH ITS GUARDIAN STATUE--WHERE CHARLES KNIGHT WAS INJURED-- OWNER OF THE CRUSADER!"
THE BISHOP!
WADE: "SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, THE PERFECT SETTING FOR A BISHOP!"
THE QUEEN!
WADE: "AND THE STATUE OF LIBERTY -- THE QUEEN OF THE HARBOR -- WHERE THE OCEAN QUEEN SANK!"
AND MY CROWNING ROBOT-- THE KING!!
TOGETHER, THEY'RE AN INVINCIBLE ARMY OF COMPUTER INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTIC STRENGTH! NOT EVEN THE AWESOME HULK CAN STOP THEM!
AND WHILE THE HULK GAPES, CONFUSED AND SPEECHLESS JOSH WADE CONCLUDES HIS ARGUMENT: "ONLY THE KING REMAINS, COMMISSIONER, AND I'LL STAKE MY PENSION THAT THE SETTING FOR THE LAST ATTACK WILL BE--"
--THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING-- KING OF THE SKYSCRAPERS!
THEN SHOULDN'T WE BE THERE?!
I'VE ALREADY GOT A FLEET OF MEN IN UNMARKED CARS SURROUNDING THE BUILDING, AT THE FIRST SIGN OF--
JOSH--REPORT OF A FIRE IN THE LOBBY AT EMPIRE STATE! THE NIGHT GUARD PUT IT OUT, BUT YOU SAID TO REPORT ANYTHING--
THAT'S IT-- LET'S MOVE!
IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THIS, JOSH, I'LL SEE YOU'RE PROMOTED.
AND MISS EXCITEMENT LIKE THIS? NO THANKS COMMISSIONER.

THIS IS MY FINAL GAMBIT, HULK! YOU'RE IN CHECKMATE--THE GAME IS OVER, I WIN!
NOW FORWARD, MY ROBOTS, ATTACK THIS POOR, PITIFUL PAWN!
BAH! WORDS CAN'T STOP HULK, LITTLE MAN--AND ROBOTS CAN'T STOP HIM! HULK IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!


THE HULK'S MOVES MAY LACK STRATEGY AND FINESSE--
BUT THEY ARE EFFECTIVE!
SPLANG
OUTSIDE...
PARK HERE, NIVEN, SO WE CAN SEE.
DO YOU THINK REIGEL WILL WIN?
YOU'VE FACED THE HULK. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HE HASN'T A CHANCE.
HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THIS STUPID GAME-- BUT HULK WILL WIN!
NO! YOU'RE MOVING TOO FAST! AND THE ROBOTS' LASERS DON'T EVEN FAZE YOU!
FASTER, JOSH! THIS IS JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS!
YOU GOT IT, COMMISSIONER!
THE HULK IS AN EXPLOSION OF SHEER UNBRIDLED FURY. FOR THE PAST SIX DAYS AND NIGHTS HE HAS BEEN HOUNDED, DRIVEN, ATTACKED AGAIN AND AGAIN. NOW IT'S HIS TURN.
ONE AFTER THE OTHER, TWO AT A TIME, HE DESTROYS ALL THE ROBOTS...
... EXCEPT ONE.
COME ON, KING! HULK WILL TAKE YOU TOO!

BUT IN A SURPRISE MOVE--
KRASH
--THE HULK IS DRIVEN OUT ONTO A PRECARIOUS LEDGE.
SO, KING TRIES TO KNOCK HULK OFF BUILDING!
BUT, IT IS KING WHO WILL FALL!
WOMP
AND FALL IT DOES-- DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF JOSH WADE'S ARRIVING CAR!
AT THE OTHER END OF THE BLOCK, GIDEON TURKEL SHOUTS: "THE COPS! STEP ON IT, LOGAN. GET US OUTTA HERE!"
THAT THING FELL FROM THE TOP FLOOR-- COME ON, COMMISSIONER!
AND AS THE SLEEK LIMOUSINE TRIES TO ESCAPE...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
WHILE, IN THE DESTROYED ELECTRONICS LAB...
NO! I DON'T ACCEPT THE DEFEAT!
I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF!
HAH! YOU MAKE JOKE, PUNY MAN!

HULK CAN CRUSH YOU WITH ONE HAND! AND AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO HULK--
NO, HULK! DON'T DO IT! GIVE HIM TO US! WE'LL SEE THAT HE'S PUNISHED!
PLEASE, HULK-- WE KNOW YOU'RE INNOCENT! IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT! JUST PUT HIM DOWN!
FOR A MOMENT THE HULK SNARLS...
...BUT THEN, DIMLY RECALLING BANNER'S MEMORY OF THIS MAN ON THE DOCKS...
THE HULK IS A MERE PAWN-- COMPLETELY INNOCENT.
...HE GRUDGINGLY COMPLIES.
HERE-- KEEP HIM.
JUST SEE THAT HE NEVER BOTHERS HULK AGAIN--OR HE'LL PAY FOR IT-- AND YOU'LL PAY FOR IT!
YOU HAVE MY WORD, HULK.
THEN, AS THE EMERALD MAN-MONSTER LEAPS INTO THE NIGHT...
LET HIM GO, MEN. BULLETS WON'T STOP HIM.
BESIDES, I MEANT IT. HE'S INNOCENT-- JUST A PAWN. AND WE'VE GOT THE DEFEATED KING RIGHT HERE!
HE... BEAT... ME...
CUT THE CAMERAS, BOYS. IT LOOKS LIKE THE HULK'S FINALLY LEAVING THE CITY--AND I'VE GOT A DATE TO BUY A MAN A DRINK.
END.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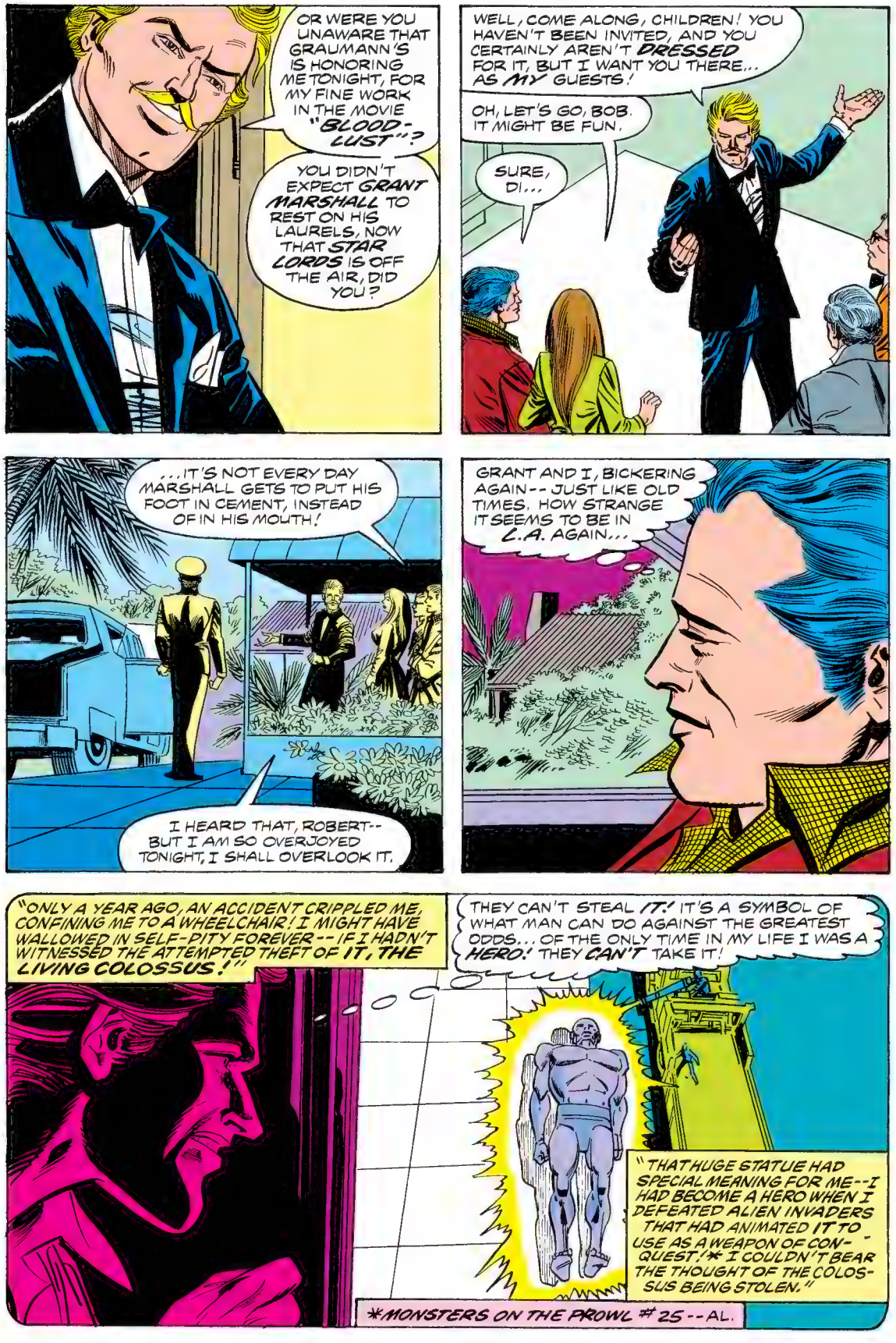
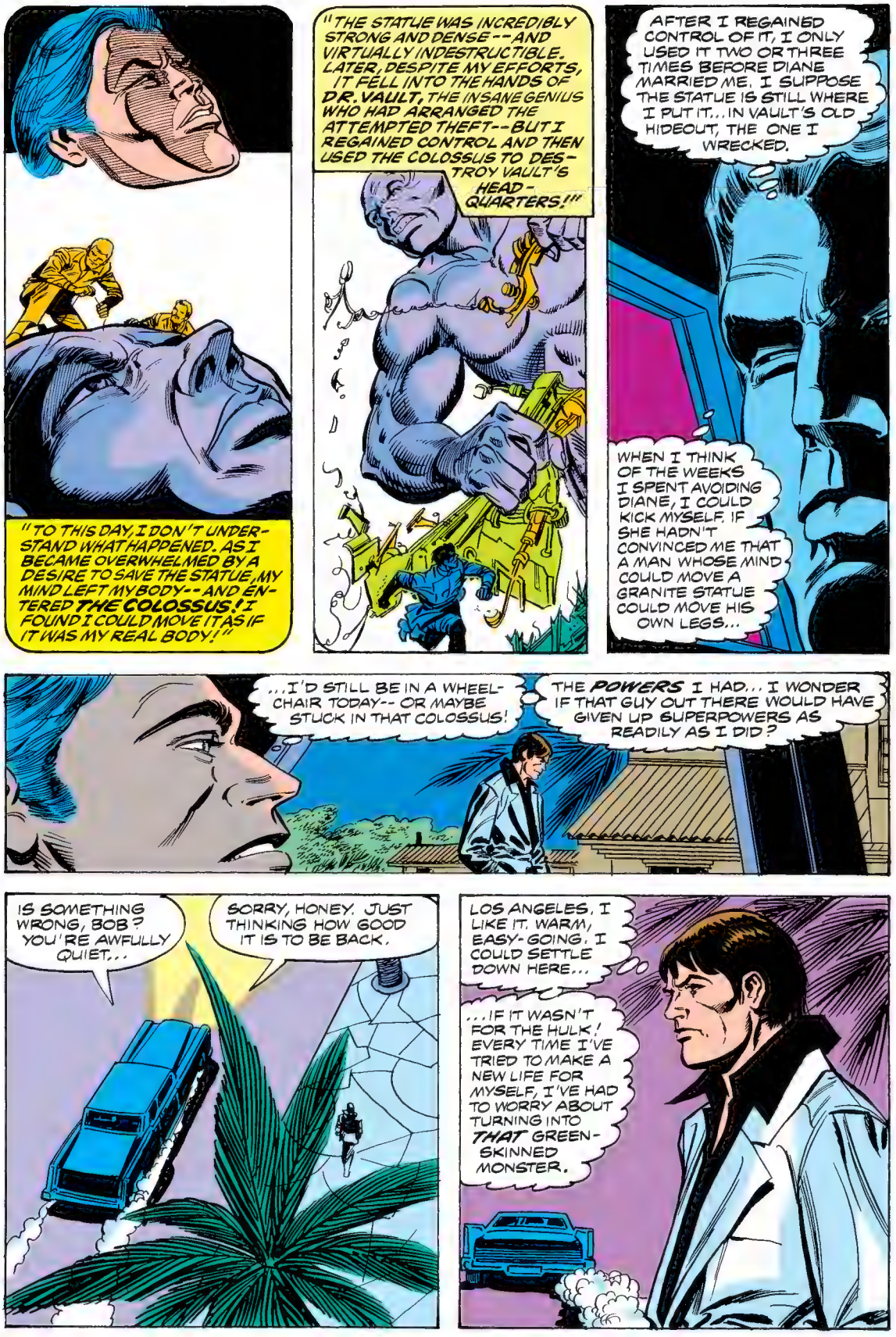
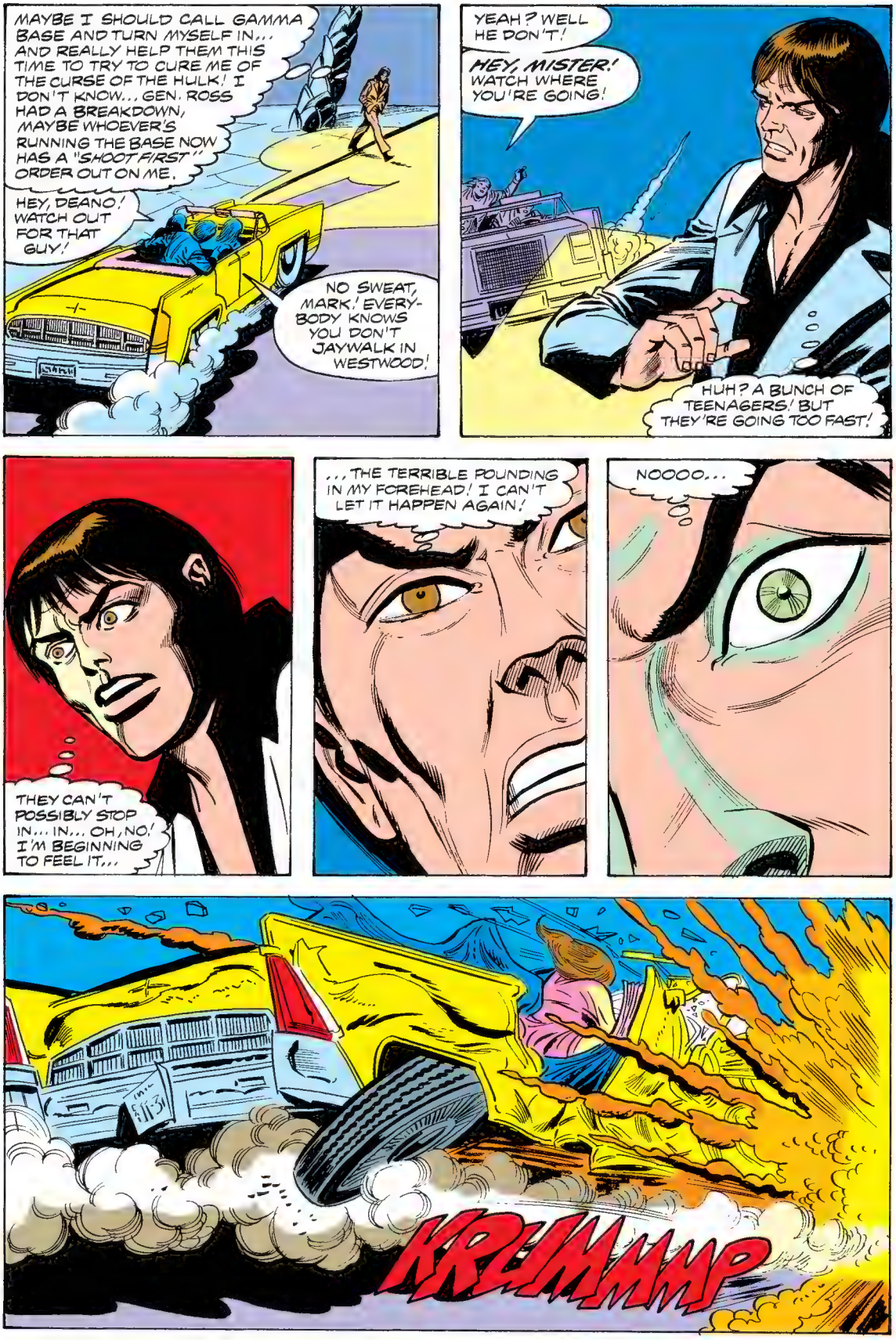
BEN SEAN colorist
ALLEN MILGROM editor
JIM SHOOTER editor-in-chief
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES. FOR SOME, IT IS A PARADISE ON EARTH. FOR OTHERS, IT IS A HAVEN FOR THE PERVERSE AND THE MALADJUSTED. FOR DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER, IT IS A CRUEL REPRESENTATION OF THE LIFE HE CANNOT HAVE-- FOR HE MUST LIVE FOREVER IN THE SHADOW OF THE HULK!
GREAT... JUST GREAT! THE HULK FALLS ASLEEP IN LONG BEACH*, AND I WAKE UP AGAIN IN A PAIR OF TORN TROUSERS. COULD'VE BEEN WORSE, I GUESS... I COULD HAVE WOKEN UP IN THE HIMALAYAS...
IT LIVES!
LF 6/0
* FOLLOWING HIS RECENT ADVENTURES IN DEFENDERS, DAREDEVIL, AND IRON MAN-- AL.

AT LEAST I STILL HAD TRAVELER'S CHECKS PINNED IN MY PANTS POCKET. I'M LUCKY THAT CLOTHING STORE CASHED THEM WITHOUT AN I.D.!
HEY, MISTER! WANT TO BE A STAR? SCREEN TESTS TODAY AT...
MISTER?
CRETIN! TO THINK THAT I-- ALOYSIUS VAULT, ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST MINDS -- HAVE COME DOWN TO HANDING SCRAPS OF PAPER TO IGNORANT OAFS ON STREET CORNERS!
HAD I SUCCEEDED IN TAKING CONTROL OF THAT STONE MONSTER, IT, THE LIVING COLOSSUS, AS I HAD PLANNED, I COULD HAVE BECOME THE MIGHTIEST BEING ON THIS WORLD! NOW--?
WANT TO BE A STAR
THE NECESSARY APPARATUS FOR PROJECTING MY MIND INTO THE CREATURE HAS LONG BEEN BUILT-- BUT THE COLOSSUS HAS VANISHED! WITH MY MONEY SPENT, MY BODY ALL BUT DESTROYED BY A NERVE DISEASE, AND NO WAY TO DRAW THE COLOSSUS INTO THE OPEN...
...I AM FORCED TO WORK AT THIS PATHETIC CHORE SIMPLY TO PAY FOR FOOD AND LODGING. SO PASSES THE GLORY OF DR. VAULT! I COULD HAVE BEEN GREAT!
AS DR. VAULT TRUDGES OFF TO HIS DINNER, LET US SHIFT OUR ATTENTION TO DELAZNY TELEVISION STUDIOS...
...WHERE SPECIAL EFFECTS WIZARD BOB O'BRYAN AND HIS NEW WIFE, THE FORMER STARLET DIANE CUMMINGS, HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM A SIX MONTH HONEYMOON...
HEY, HEY--WELCOME BACK, YOU TWO! HOW WAS THE WORLD TOUR?
MR. DELAZNY?! AND MY FAVORITE SECOND-STRING ACTOR, FELIX SIMON! HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE BACK?
AW, MR. DELAZNY KEPT TABS ON YOU GUYS, WE KNEW YOU'D BE BACK...
...IN TIME TO MAKE EVERYONE FORGET WHAT NIGHT IT IS, OBVIOUSLY!


OR WERE YOU UNAWARE THAT GRAUMANN'S IS HONORING ME TONIGHT, FOR MY FINE WORK IN THE MOVIE "BLOOD-LUST"?
YOU DIDN'T EXPECT GRANT MARSHALL TO REST ON HIS LAURELS, NOW THAT STAR LORDS IS OFF THE AIR, DID YOU?
WELL, COME ALONG, CHILDREN! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN INVITED, AND YOU CERTAINLY AREN'T DRESSED FOR IT, BUT I WANT YOU THERE... AS MY GUESTS!
OH, LET'S GO, BOB. IT MIGHT BE FUN.
SURE, DI...
...IT'S NOT EVERY DAY MARSHALL GETS TO PUT HIS FOOT IN CEMENT, INSTEAD OF IN HIS MOUTH!
I HEARD THAT, ROBERT-- BUT I AM SO OVERJOYED TONIGHT, I SHALL OVERLOOK IT.
GRANT AND I, BICKERING AGAIN-- JUST LIKE OLD TIMES. HOW STRANGE IT SEEMS TO BE IN L.A. AGAIN...
"ONLY A YEAR AGO, AN ACCIDENT CRIPPLED ME, CONFINING ME TO A WHEELCHAIR! I MIGHT HAVE WALLOWED IN SELF-PITY FOREVER-- IF I HADN'T WITNESSED THE ATTEMPTED THEFT OF IT, THE LIVING COLOSSUS!"
THEY CAN'T STEAL IT! IT'S A SYMBOL OF WHAT MAN CAN DO AGAINST THE GREATEST ODDS... OF THE ONLY TIME IN MY LIFE I WAS A HERO! THEY CAN'T TAKE IT!
"THAT HUGE STATUE HAD SPECIAL MEANING FOR ME--I HAD BECOME A HERO WHEN I DEFEATED ALIEN INVADERS THAT HAD ANIMATED IT TO USE AS A WEAPON OF CONQUEST! * I COULDN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF THE COLOSSUS BEING STOLEN."
*MONSTERS ON THE PROWL # 25 -- AL.

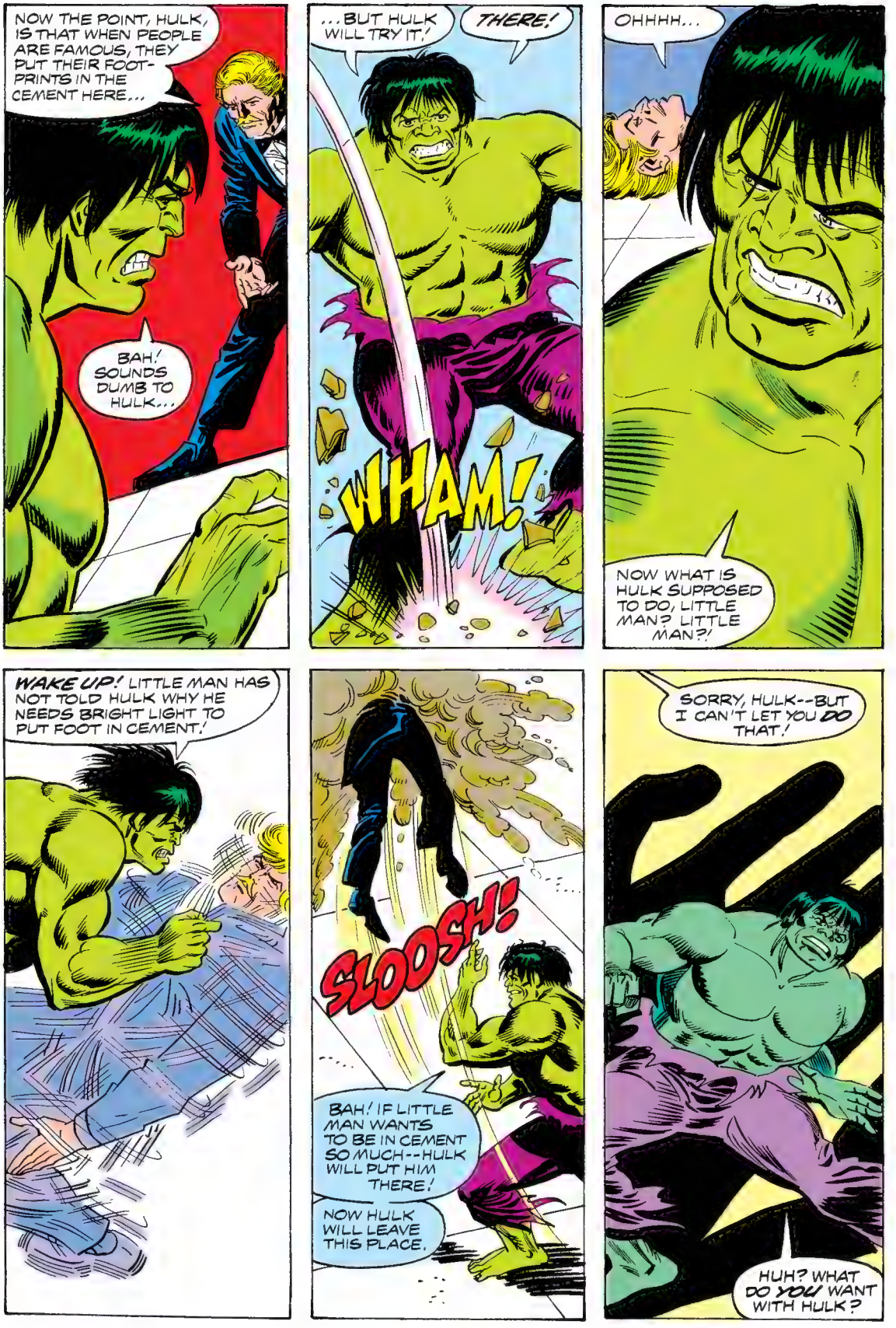

"TO THIS DAY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED. AS I BECAME OVERWHELMED BY A DESIRE TO SAVE THE STATUE, MY MIND LEFT MY BODY -- AND ENTERED THE COLOSSUS! I FOUND I COULD MOVE IT AS IF IT WAS MY REAL BODY!"
"THE STATUE WAS INCREDIBLY STRONG AND DENSE -- AND VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE. LATER, DESPITE MY EFFORTS, IT FELL INTO THE HANDS OF DR. VAULT, THE INSANE GENIUS WHO HAD ARRANGED THE ATTEMPTED THEFT -- BUT I REGAINED CONTROL AND THEN USED THE COLOSSUS TO DESTROY VAULT'S HEADQUARTERS!"
AFTER I REGAINED CONTROL OF IT, I ONLY USED IT TWO OR THREE TIMES BEFORE DIANE MARRIED ME. I SUPPOSE THE STATUE IS STILL WHERE I PUT IT... IN VAULT'S OLD HIDEOUT, THE ONE I WRECKED.
WHEN I THINK OF THE WEEKS I SPENT AVOIDING DIANE, I COULD KICK MYSELF. IF SHE HADN'T CONVINCED ME THAT A MAN WHOSE MIND COULD MOVE A GRANITE STATUE COULD MOVE HIS OWN LEGS...
...I'D STILL BE IN A WHEELCHAIR TODAY -- OR MAYBE STUCK IN THAT COLOSSUS!
THE POWERS I HAD... I WONDER IF THAT GUY OUT THERE WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP SUPERPOWERS AS READILY AS I DID?
IS SOMETHING WRONG, BOB? YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET...
SORRY, HONEY. JUST THINKING HOW GOOD IT IS TO BE BACK.
LOS ANGELES, I LIKE IT. WARM, EASY-GOING. I COULD SETTLE DOWN HERE...
...IF IT WASN'T FOR THE HULK! EVERY TIME I'VE TRIED TO MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR MYSELF, I'VE HAD TO WORRY ABOUT TURNING INTO THAT GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER.

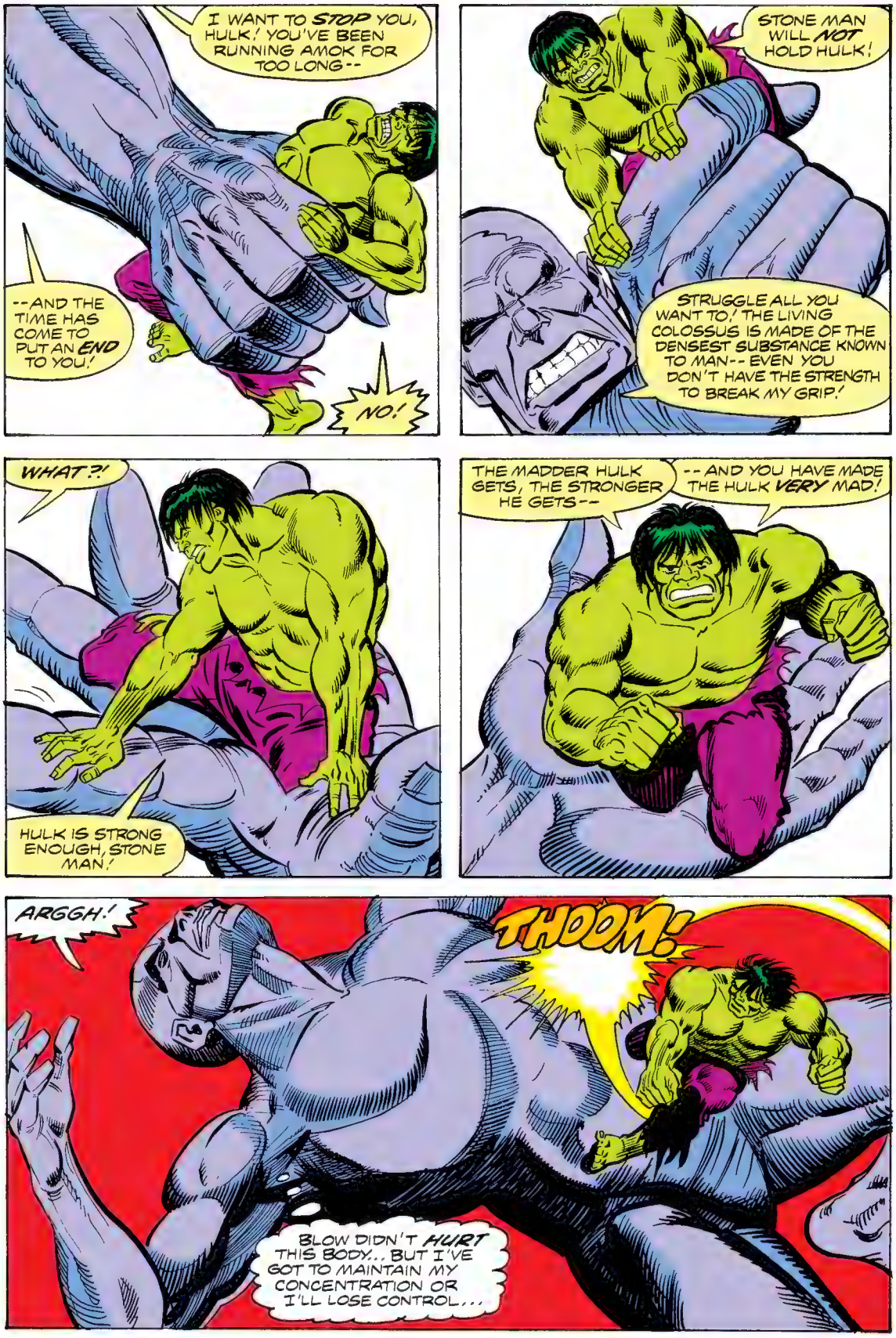

MAYBE I SHOULD CALL GAMMA BASE AND TURN MYSELF IN... AND REALLY HELP THEM THIS TIME TO TRY TO CURE ME OF THE CURSE OF THE HULK! I DON'T KNOW... GEN. ROSS HAD A BREAKDOWN, MAYBE WHOEVER'S RUNNING THE BASE NOW HAS A "SHOOT FIRST" ORDER OUT ON ME.
HEY, DEANO! WATCH OUT FOR THAT GUY!
NO SWEAT, MARK! EVERY-BODY KNOWS YOU DON'T JAYWALK IN WESTWOOD!
YEAH? WELL HE DON'T!
HEY, MISTER! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
HUH? A BUNCH OF TEENAGERS! BUT THEY'RE GOING TOO FAST!
THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY STOP IN... IN... OH, NO! I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL IT...
...THE TERRIBLE POUNDING IN MY FOREHEAD! I CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
NOOOO...
KRUMMMP

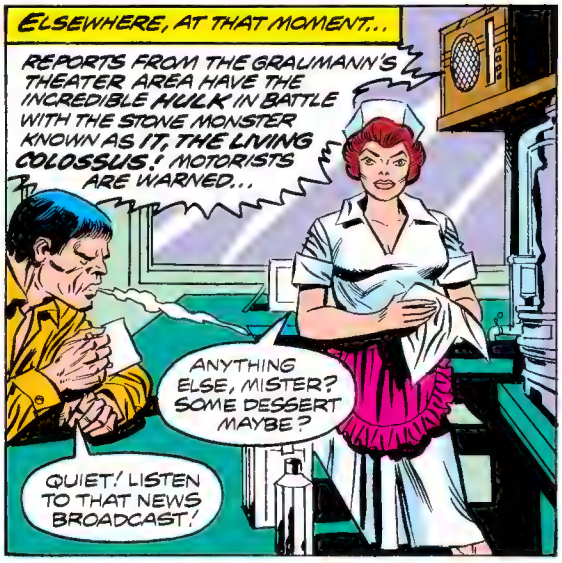
OHHHHH...
HUH?! CHILDREN ATTACKED HULK?! DOES HULK HAVE TO SMASH CHILDREN NOW?
HRREEEEE
SO! POLICE WANT TO FIGHT HULK!
COME ON! I THINK WE FINALLY GOT OUR SPEEDBUGS!
THAT AIN'T ALL WE GOT! LOOK!
WHAT'S THE HULK DOIN' IN L.A.? LAST I HEARD, HE WAS IN NEW YORK...
HE'S HERE NOW, DUMMY!
HULK! LET THOSE KIDS GO! GIVE YOURSELF UP AND WE WON'T HURT YOU!
YOU HURT HULK? HAH!
HULK WILL SHOW YOU WHAT HE THINKS OF THAT!
LOOK WHAT HE'S DOIN'!
HE'S THROWING THAT WRECK RIGHT AT OUR PATROL CAR...
SKRANG!

HEY! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
SO WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?
BUT-- OUR CAR! HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THIS AT THE PRECINCT?
WE'LL JUST SAY WE CAUGHT OUR SPEEDERS--AND THEY WERE A LITTLE SPEEDIER THAN WE'D PLANNED ON.
MEANWHILE...
HMPH! HULK DOESN'T LIKE THIS PLACE! AIR SMELLS FUNNY... TOO MANY PEOPLE!
HULK WANTS TO BE BACK IN DESERT, WHERE HE CAN BE ALONE...
ARGH! WHO ATTACKS HULK WITH BRIGHT LIGHT? HULK CAN'T SEE WHERE HE IS GOING!
HULK WILL FAAALLLLL...
THERE IS AN ABRUPT THUD...
THEN, FROM AMID THE SHATTERED HUNK'S OF PAVEMENT...
THERE IS WHERE LIGHT CAME FROM! HULK WILL FIND OUT WHO SENT THE LIGHT--
--AND HULK WILL MAKE THEM PAY!

AND, A FEW MINUTES LATER...
...AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, MY FIRST PICTURE WAS THE EMMY, IN 1963...
AIEEE!
AH, YOU REMEMBER!
IT'S THE HULK! RUN!
THE HULK?! IT'S NOT BAD ENOUGH YOUR SHOW DRIVES MINE OFF THE AIR! YOU HAVE TO RUIN MY SPEECH, TOO!
LITTLE MAN...
SHUT UP!
OH, MY WORD --IT'S THE REAL HULK!
WHY DID LITTLE MAN ATTACK HULK WITH LIGHT? TALK!
WE--WE DIDN'T ATTACK YOU, HULK!
BOB! THE HULK WILL KILL HIM IF GRANT ACTS LIKE HE USUALLY DOES! I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE GRANT--BUT WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
BOB? ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
BOB!
DIANE! WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S BOB, FELIX...HE JUST WENT BLANK AND...I'M AFRAID HE'S BECOME THE COLOSSUS AGAIN!
N-NOW HULK... L-LET ME EXPLAIN!


NOW THE POINT, HULK, IS THAT WHEN PEOPLE ARE FAMOUS, THEY PUT THEIR FOOT-PRINTS IN THE CEMENT HERE...
BAH! SOUNDS DUMB TO HULK...
...BUT HULK WILL TRY IT.'
THERE!
WHAM!
OHHHH...
NOW WHAT IS HULK SUPPOSED TO DO, LITTLE MAN? LITTLE MAN?!
WAKE UP! LITTLE MAN HAS NOT TOLD HULK WHY HE NEEDS BRIGHT LIGHT TO PUT FOOT IN CEMENT.'
SLOOSH!
BAH! IF LITTLE MAN WANTS TO BE IN CEMENT SO MUCH--HULK WILL PUT HIM THERE!
NOW HULK WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE.
SORRY, HULK--BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.'
HUH? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH HULK?


I WANT TO STOP YOU, HULK! YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AMOK FOR TOO LONG--
--AND THE TIME HAS COME TO PUT AN END TO YOU!
NO!
STONE MAN WILL NOT HOLD HULK!
STRUGGLE ALL YOU WANT TO, THE LIVING COLOSSUS IS MADE OF THE DENSEST SUBSTANCE KNOWN TO MAN-- EVEN YOU DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BREAK MY GRIP!
WHAT?!
HULK IS STRONG ENOUGH, STONE MAN!
THE MADDER HULK GETS, THE STRONGER HE GETS--
--AND YOU HAVE MADE THE HULK VERY MAD!
ARGGH!
THOOM!
BLOW DIDN'T HURT THIS BODY.. BUT I'VE GOT TO MAINTAIN MY CONCENTRATION OR I'LL LOSE CONTROL...

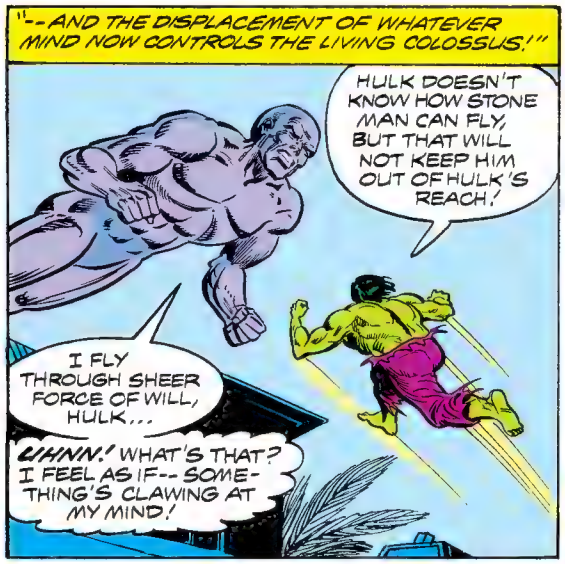

ELSEWHERE, AT THAT MOMENT...
REPORTS FROM THE GRAUMANN'S THEATER AREA HAVE THE INCREDIBLE HULK IN BATTLE WITH THE STONE MONSTER KNOWN AS IT, THE LIVING COLOSSUS! MOTORISTS ARE WARNED...
ANYTHING ELSE, MISTER? SOME DESSERT MAYBE?
QUIET! LISTEN TO THAT NEWS BROADCAST!

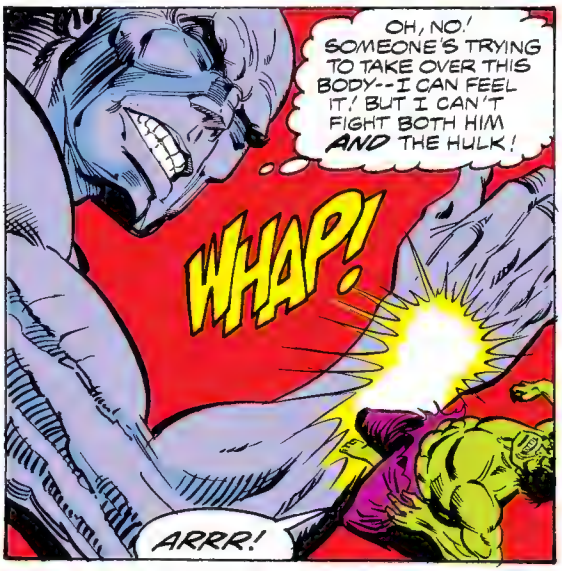
UNBELIEVABLE! THE COLOSSUS--BACK IN ACTION! MY MOMENT IS AT HAND!
HEY! WHERE'RE YOU GOING? YOU HAVEN'T PAID YET! WHAT ABOUT MY TIP?

HOTEL
ROOMS
NOW I SHALL HAVE REVENGE FOR THE MONTHS OF MISERY I HAVE UNDERGONE!

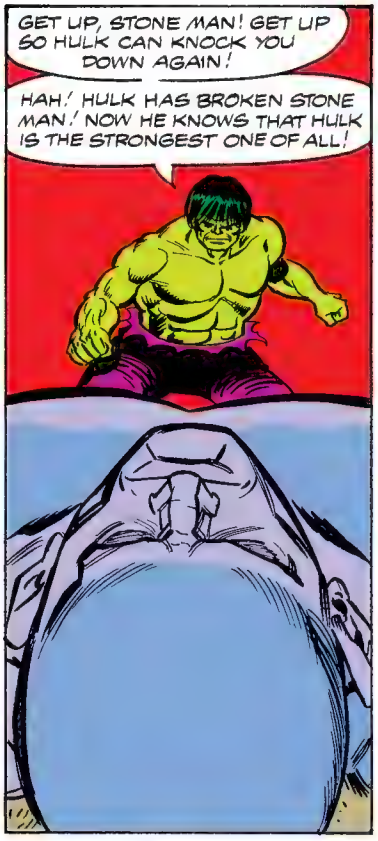
WHO WOULD SUSPECT THAT IN A ROOM OF THIS RUNDOWN HOTEL--
--IS THE MACHINE WHICH WILL THROW MY MIND INTO THAT INDESTRUCTIBLE STONE BODY, THE FIRST STEP TOWARD MY DESTINY OF CONQUEST!

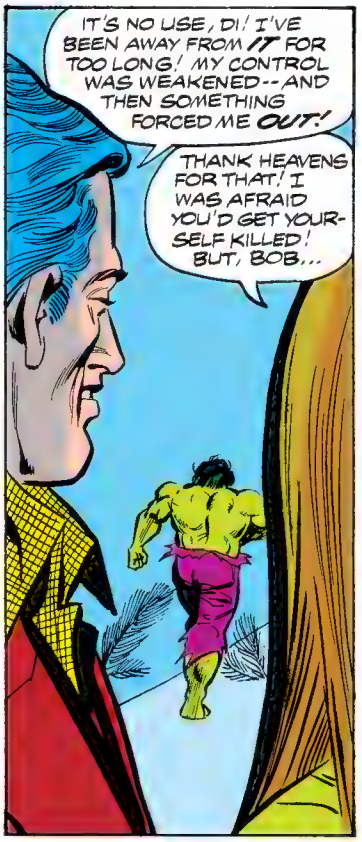
A DESTINY WHICH WILL BEGIN WITH THE SIMPLE FLICK OF A SWITCH--


"--AND THE DISPLACEMENT OF WHATEVER MIND NOW CONTROLS THE LIVING COLOSSUS!"
HULK DOESN'T KNOW HOW STONE MAN CAN FLY, BUT THAT WILL NOT KEEP HIM OUT OF HULK'S REACH!
I FLY THROUGH SHEER FORCE OF WILL, HULK...
UHNN! WHAT'S THAT? I FEEL AS IF--SOMETHING'S CLAWING AT MY MIND!

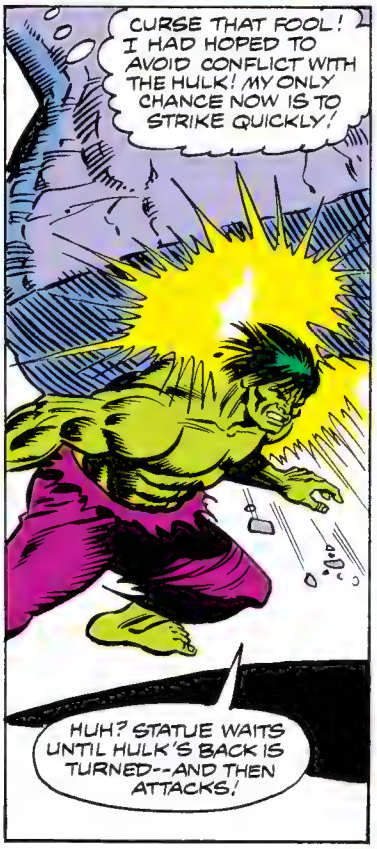

OH, NO! SOMEONE'S TRYING TO TAKE OVER THIS BODY--I CAN FEEL IT! BUT I CAN'T FIGHT BOTH HIM AND THE HULK!
WHAP!
ARRR!

MY LAST BLOW HURT YOU, HULK--AND THIS ONE SHOULD FINISH YOU!
BAH! DOESN'T STONE MAN UNDERSTAND? HULK DOESN'T CARE HOW STRONG YOU ARE!
HULK CAN BEAT ANYBODY! ANYBODY!
INCREDIBLE! HE TOPPLED ME OFF MY FEET! HIS POWER IS BEYOND BELIEF!
BLAST! WHILE I WAS CONCENTRATING ON KEEPING THAT OTHER MIND AWAY, THE HULK GOT UNDER ME! HOW CAN HE MOVE SO QUICKLY?
HULK DOESN'T KNOW WHY YOU ATTACKED HIM, STONE MAN--BUT HULK HAD HAD ENOUGH!
HULK WILL SMASH YOU SO YOU CAN'T ATTACK HIM AGAIN!
NO! THE COLOSSUS DOESN'T RESPOND TO MY MENTAL COMMANDS ANYMORE! I'M BEING FORCED OUT--
ARRGGH!


GET UP, STONE MAN! GET UP SO HULK CAN KNOCK YOU DOWN AGAIN!
HAH! HULK HAS BROKEN STONE MAN! NOW HE KNOWS THAT HULK IS THE STRONGEST ONE OF ALL!


IT'S NO USE, DI! I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM IT FOR TOO LONG! MY CONTROL WAS WEAKENED--AND THEN SOMETHING FORCED ME OUT!
THANK HEAVENS FOR THAT! I WAS AFRAID YOU'D GET YOURSELF KILLED! BUT, BOB...

WHO'S CONTROLLING THE COLOSSUS NOW?
I FELT THE PRESENCE OF AN EVIL MIND, AND--OH, NO! IT'S MOVING!
THE STATUE MUSTN'T BE USED FOR EVIL AGAIN-- AND THERE'S ONLY ONE BEING ON EARTH WHO COULD STOP IT!
HULK! LOOK OUT! IT IS ATTACKING AGAIN!


CURSE THAT FOOL! I HAD HOPED TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH THE HULK! MY ONLY CHANCE NOW IS TO STRIKE QUICKLY!
HUH? STATUE WAITS UNTIL HULK'S BACK IS TURNED--AND THEN ATTACKS!

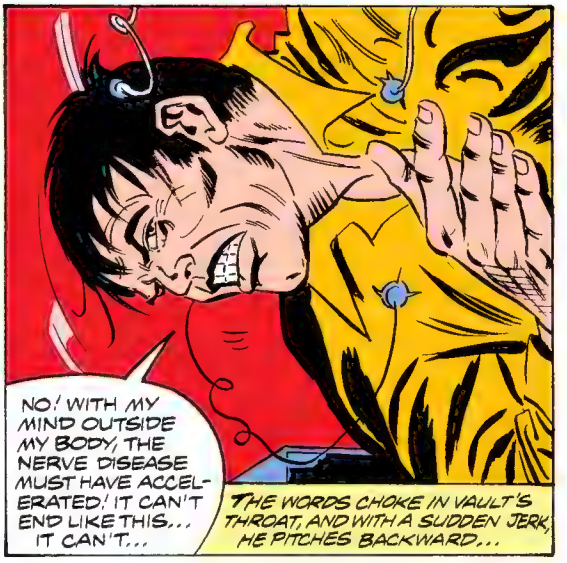
DR. VAULT CONTROLS THIS STATUE NOW, BRUTE! YOU MUST PERISH, SO THAT NO OTHER WILL CONTEST MY MIGHT!
HULK DOESN'T CARE WHO YOU ARE, STONE MAN!

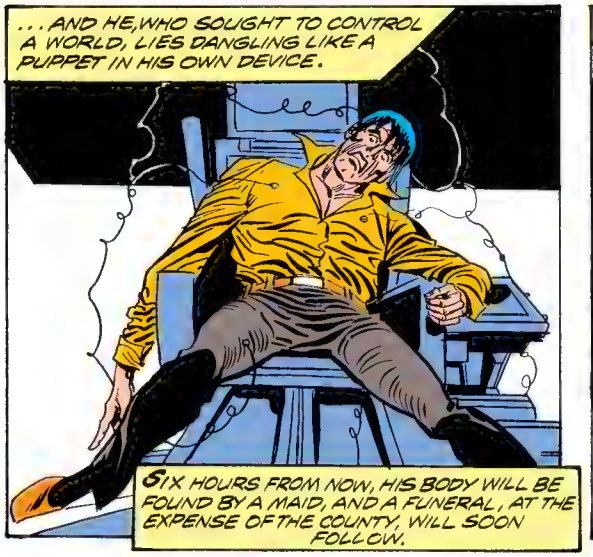
HULK JUST WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE!
AND IF STONE MAN WILL NOT LEAVE HULK ALONE--
CRAAAK
--HULK WILL CRUSH STONE MAN!
NO! THIS BODY CAN'T BE DAMAGED!
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
STONE MAN IS STUPID! ANYTHING HULK DOES IS POSSIBLE!
YOU ARE THE STUPID ONE, HULK--
--FOR THOUGH YOU HAVE TORN THESE STONE LIMBS FROM ME, STILL THEY REMAIN UNDER MY CONTROL!
AND I CAN STILL DESTROY YOU!
BAH! HULK DOESN'T CARE HOW MANY PIECES YOU COME IN. HULK CAN MAKE MORE PIECES OUT OF YOU--
KRIIISH!
--UNTIL NOTHING IS LEFT OF STONE MAN BUT LITTLE PIECES!

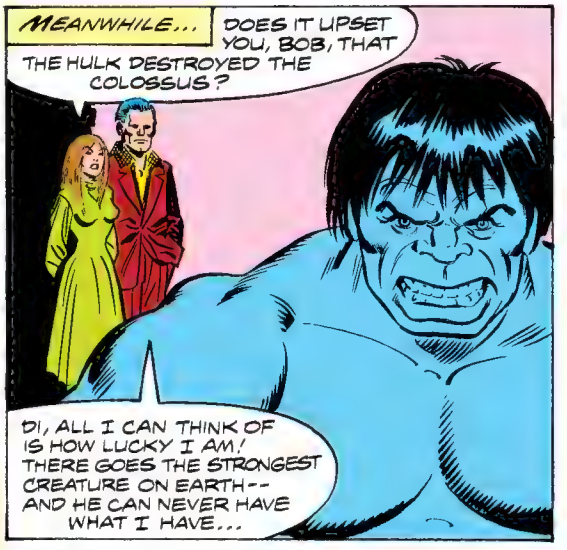
THOK
AND ALL THOSE PIECES WILL BE DIRECTED AGAINST YOU, MONSTER--UNTIL YOU FALL!
NO! HULK IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!
OH? THEN WHY DON'T YOU RISE? DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT YOU HAVE MET YOUR MASTER?
KRASH
HAH! HULK TRICKED STONE MAN! HE THOUGHT HULK WOULD WAIT FOR HIM TO BRING HIS FISTS TOGETHER ON HULK--
--BUT HULK MADE STONE MAN SMASH HIMSELF!
WHACK
UNGH!
BLAST YOU, HULK! I WAITED MONTHS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY OF TAKING COMMAND OF THIS COLOSSUS--AND YOU'VE RUINED IT! FOR THAT I WILL RUIN YOU!
STONE MAN MAKES IT SOUND LIKE FIGHT WAS HULK'S IDEA! HULK TOLD YOU TO LEAVE HIM ALONE!
STONE MAN WOULDN'T LISTEN--MADE HULK ANGRY--NOW HULK WILL SMASH HIM!

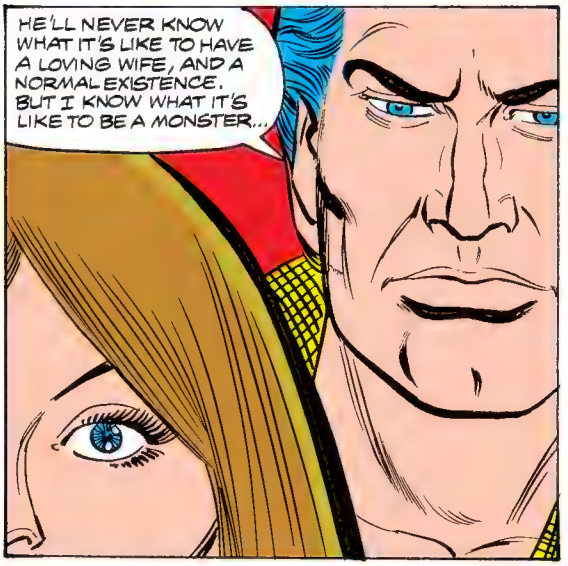
NO! NOOOOO...
HULK WILL GRIND YOU INTO DUST!
SKRASSH
DUST!
WHOOM!
THERE, STONE MAN IS GONE--HULK CAN BE ALONE AGAIN!
HUH? NOW DUST ATTACKS HULK!
I WARNED YOU, HULK! ALL THE PARTICLES OF THIS BODY REMAIN UNDER MY CONTROL! YOU MAY HAVE SHATTERED THE STATUE, AND MY DREAMS--
--BUT I CAN STILL DESTROY YOU!
KOFF! SAND WANTS TO COVER HULK'S FACE--BUT HULK DOES NOT LIKE THAT!
GO AWAY, SAND! GO AWAY!
THE FORCE OF THE HULK'S CLAP CAN BE FELT ALL THE WAY TO THE OCEAN... AND AS THE PARTICLES OF IT, THE FORMER LIVING COLOSSUS, DISPERSE OVER THE WIDER LOS ANGELES AREA...
KAAA
THOOM!

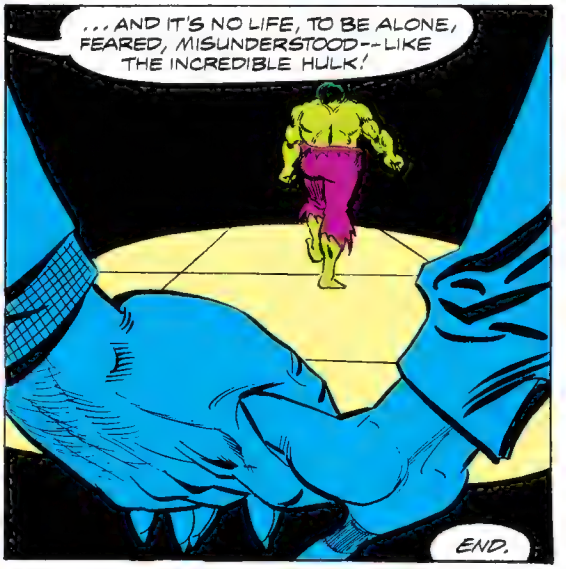
...IN A NEARBY TRANSIENT HOTEL, AN ANGRY DR. VAULT JOLTS ABRUPTLY BACK TO LIFE...
DESTROYED! ALL DESTROYED! I SWEAR I'LL FIND THE HULK AND CRUSH HIM FOR THIS! HE'LL PAY... P-P...
P-P-PAIN!


NO! WITH MY MIND OUTSIDE MY BODY, THE NERVE DISEASE MUST HAVE ACCELERATED! IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS... IT CAN'T...
THE WORDS CHOKE IN VAULT'S THROAT, AND WITH A SUDDEN JERK, HE PITCHES BACKWARD...


...AND HE, WHO SOUGHT TO CONTROL A WORLD, LIES DANGLING LIKE A PUPPET IN HIS OWN DEVICE.
SIX HOURS FROM NOW, HIS BODY WILL BE FOUND BY A MAID, AND A FUNERAL, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE COUNTY, WILL SOON FOLLOW.


MEANWHILE...
DOES IT UPSET YOU, BOB, THAT THE HULK DESTROYED THE COLOSSUS?
DI, ALL I CAN THINK OF IS HOW LUCKY I AM! THERE GOES THE STRONGEST CREATURE ON EARTH-- AND HE CAN NEVER HAVE WHAT I HAVE...


HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE A LOVING WIFE, AND A NORMAL EXISTENCE. BUT I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A MONSTER...


...AND IT'S NO LIFE, TO BE ALONE, FEARED, MISUNDERSTOOD--LIKE THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
END.

Between covers by Bob Budiansky & Jack Abel, *Marvel Treasury Edition* #20 (1979) reprinted *The Incredible Hulk* #136-137 & #143-144.

Marvel Treasury Edition #20 also featured four pinups utilizing artwork from Marvel's United Kingdom reprint titles.

SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION: HERE'S A LIVELY ASSORTMENT OF ACTION-PACKED POSTERS WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN OUR MERRY OL' ENGLISH MAGS!
HULK PIN-UP GALLERY
ART BY RON WILSON AND FRANK GIACOIA

ART BY PABLO MARCOS

ART BY PABLO MARCOS
THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!

Between covers by Bob Budiansky & Bob Wiacek, *Marvel Treasury Edition* #24 (1979) reprinted *The Incredible Hulk* #175-178.

Marvel subscription house ad featuring the Hulk from May 1979 titles

EVEN HULK KNOWS YOU CAN SAVE MONEY WHEN YOU BUY A SPECIAL--
MARVEL LONG-TERM SUBSCRIPTION!
THE LONGER YOU SUBSCRIBE-- THE MORE YOU SAVE!
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BIG-HEARTED MARVEL-- TODAY!
ALL COPIES MAILED FLAT!

Title:	One year	Two years	Three years
CAPTAIN AMERICA	☐	☐	☐
THE INCREDIBLE HULK	☐	☐	☐
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN	☐	☐	☐
AVENGERS	☐	☐	☐
THE DEFENDERS	☐	☐	☐
FANTASTIC FOUR	☐	☐	☐
INVADERS	☐	☐	☐
MARVEL TALES Featuring Spider-Man	☐	☐	☐
THOR	☐	☐	☐
STAR WARS	☐	☐	☐

Please mail coupon to:
MARVEL COMICS SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. NV2-78
575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Awright! I'm gonna take advantage of your good nature. Here's my hard-earned bucks.

1st year = $4.50 2 years = $7.50 (SAVE $1.50 off the regular low $9.00 price.) 3 years = $10.50 (SAVE $3.00 off the regular low $13.50 price.

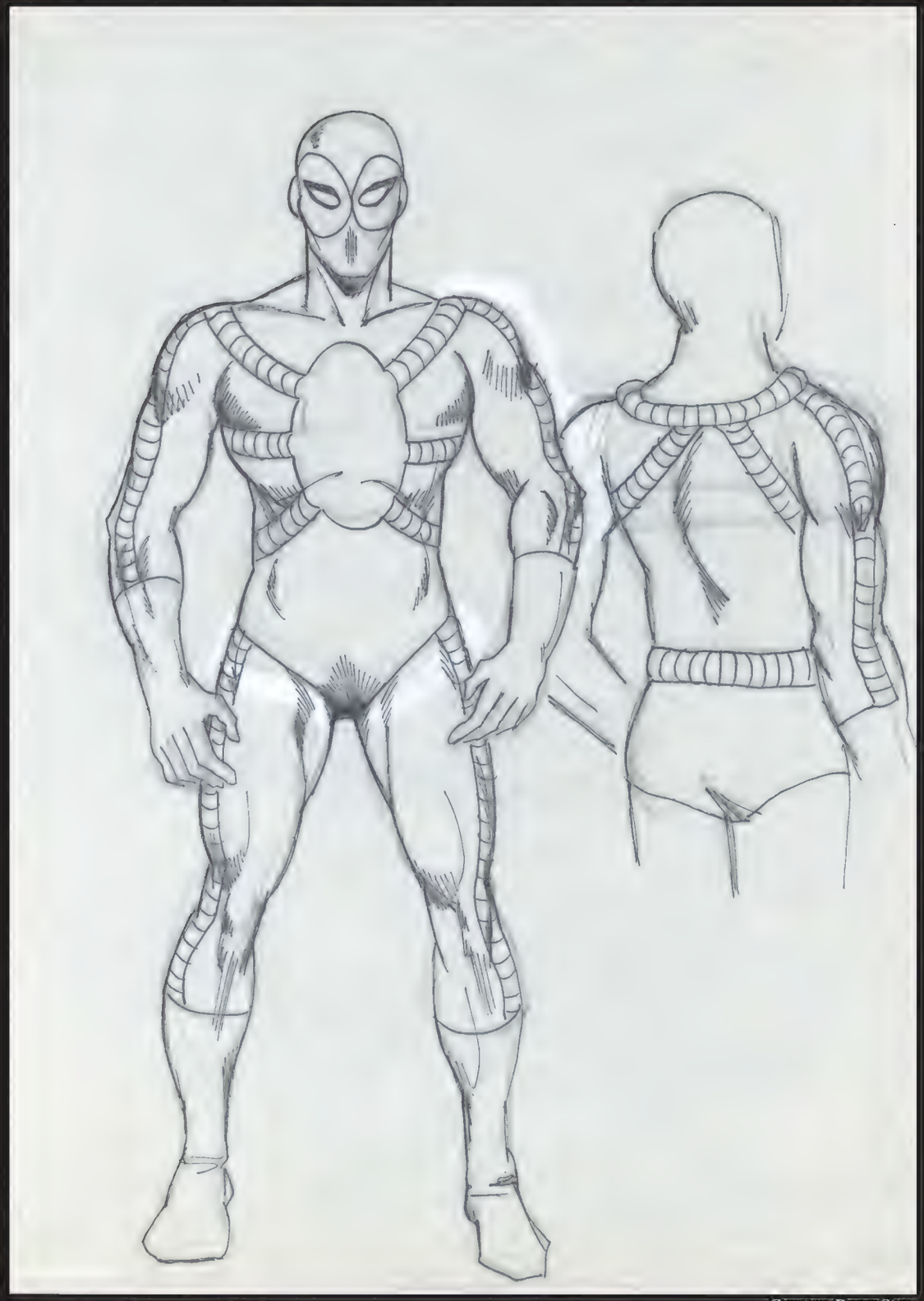
Name _____ Age _____
(please print)
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Canadian Subscription add $1.00; Foreign Subscription add $2.00. Allow 10 weeks for delivery.
Check or money order made payable to Marvel Comics.

The Incredible Hulk editor Al Milgrom featured this house ad, drawn by Fred Hembeck, in his August 1979 titles

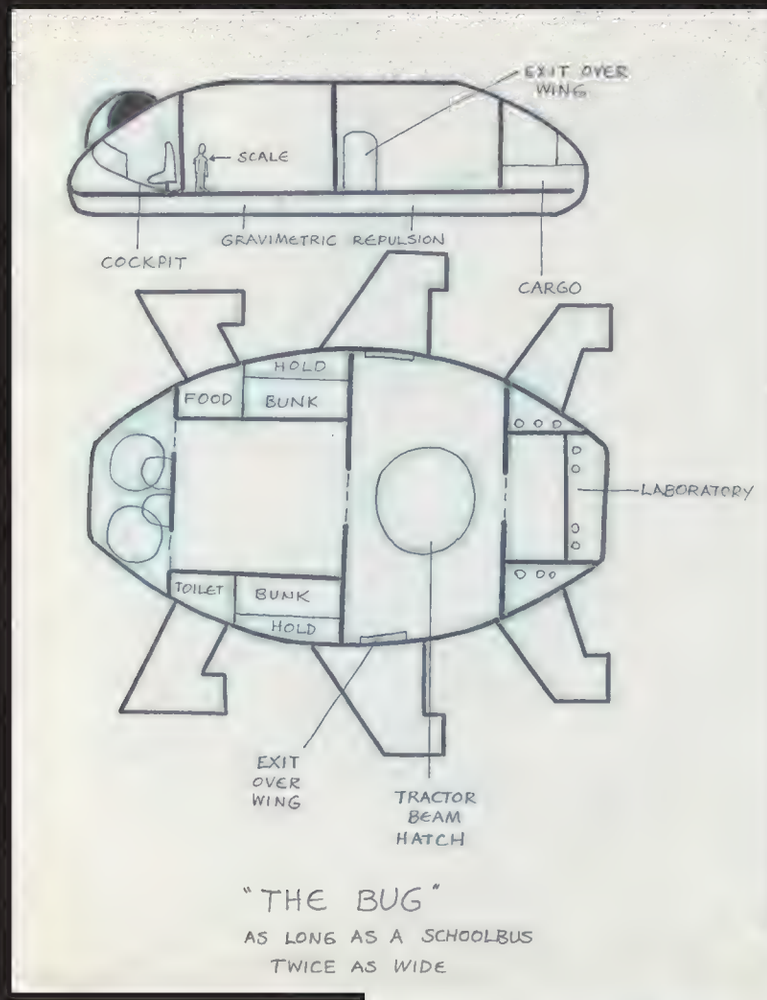
JOIN THE MIGHTY MARVEL COMICS CHORUS LINE!
ALWAYS THE VERY BEST IN COMICS EACH AND EVERY MONTH!
DAREDEVIL; THE DEFENDERS; DR. STRANGE; MARVEL TEAM-UP; THE MICRONAUTS; TARZAN; PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, SHOGUN WARRIORS AND... OH YES...THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THOSE PEERLESS PURVEYORS OF EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE, ALLEN MILGROM AND MARY JO DUFFY.
HULK NOT DANCE!
FRED HEMBECK

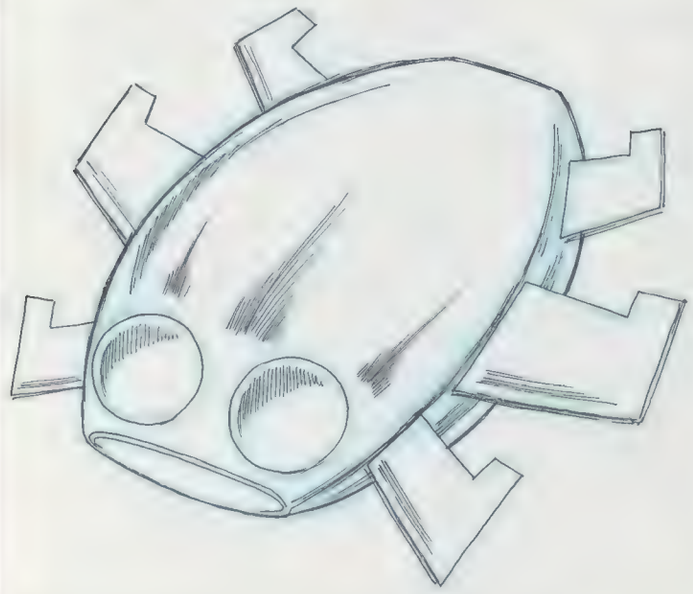
Goldbug costume redesign sketch
by Mark Gruenwald



Courtesy Roger Stern

The Bug ship
design sketches
by Mark Gruenwald





Courtesy Roger Stern

Design sketch for Tyrannus' *The Incredible Hulk* #242 armor
by Mark Gruenwald

Courtesy Roger Stern

BIOGRAPHIES

ROGER STERN

Born in Noblesville, Indiana, in 1950, Roger Stern was a self-professed "child of the '50s," immersing himself in pop culture icons like Lucille Ball, the Lone Ranger, and especially Superman. After graduating from Indiana University, Stern worked at Indianapolis' WXLW radio and formed a comic fan collective with fans in the region. Stern teamed with fellow Hoosier Bob Layton to transform Layton's comic sales business into the fanzine *CPL* (*Contemporary Pictorial Literature*). Their efforts led to an offer from Charlton to create the publisher's official fanzine, *Charlton Bullseye*. Soon after, Stern's fandom pal Roger Slifer contacted him with an opportunity to interview for a Marvel staff job. Stern raced to New York to put his passion for comics to the test. He was hired as an assistant editor and in 1975 embarked on an eleven-year career at Marvel. Stern's early editing duties saw him guiding the Avengers family of titles, *Master of Kung Fu*, *Spider-Woman*, and others. He also presided over *X-Men* during the seminal Chris Claremont, John Byrne, and Terry Austin run, and plotted *Marvel Premiere* #50 starring rocker Alice Cooper.

In 1978, he began to take on regular writing work on *The Incredible Hulk* and *Doctor Strange*. His compelling storytelling quickly earned him an audience and turns writing *Captain America* and Spider-Man in *The Spectacular Spider-Man*. The latter title led to his tenure on *The Amazing Spider-Man*, a run regarded by many as second only to Stan Lee's. Amongst their many Spidey highlights, Stern and artist John Romita Jr. introduced the Hobgoblin and a new Captain Marvel, Monica Rambeau. Stern also began a long stint on *The Avengers*, launched *West Coast Avengers*, and returned for another celebrated run on *Doctor Strange*.

When his tenure with Marvel came to an end in the late '80s, Stern became indelibly linked to the Man of Steel with iconic work that included "The Death of Superman." Since then "Uncle Rog," as he is known to his devoted fans, has returned to Marvel to write several series including *Avengers Forever*, *Amazing Spider-Man*, *Marvel: The Lost Generation*, *Captain America Corps*, and more.

SAL BUSCEMA

Without a doubt one of comics' most prolific artists, "Our Pal" Sal Buscema joined Marvel in 1968 shortly after his elder brother, John. Tackling inking duties on *Silver Surfer* and *Fantastic Four*, including the all-time classic *Silver Surfer* #4, Buscema quickly graduated to penciling. He was an anchor of the Marvel line in the 1970s with long runs on books like *Captain America*, *Marvel Team-Up* and *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and a 100-plus issue run on *The Incredible Hulk*. Buscema was also behind defining the tone on early issues of *The Defenders*, *Rom* and *The New Mutants*. His career as one of Marvel's most versatile artists lasted throughout the '70s and into the '90s. In 1988, he returned to *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and over the next ten years penciled every issue but two from #134 through #238 (and inked the vast majority as well!) Although he retired in the late '90s, readers can still see his name on comics credits from time to time, including inking work on the cult hit *Spider-Girl*.

JOHN BYRNE

With his naturalistic style captivating legions of fans, John Byrne became one of the most influential and popular comic artists of the '70s and '80s. Born in England but raised in Canada, with four years of art school training under his belt, Byrne headed straight for the comics business, getting his start with Charlton Comics.

He produced his first original creations, the robot Rog-2000—which appeared as a backup strip in *E-Man*—and *Doomsday +1* at Charlton. Though the art was rough compared to his later standards, it drew the attention of Marvel Comics, where he found work on *Champions*, *Iron Fist* and *Marvel Team-Up*. The relationship he established on these books with writer Chris Claremont led to his entry on a title that was rapidly ascending in importance at Marvel: the "All-New, All-Different" *X-Men*.

Taking the torch from Dave Cockrum, for the next five years Byrne penciled and co-plotted the adventures of Marvel's mutants. His fresh style translated perfectly to the new cast of characters, and together Byrne and Claremont built the X-Men into a keystone title at Marvel. However, just after the twin triumphs of "The Dark Phoenix Saga" and "Days of Future Past," Byrne left the book.

His next major achievement was a long run as writer/artist on *Fantastic Four* that restored the title to its imaginative best. His run hearkened back to the glory days of Lee and Kirby and is arguably the milestone achievement of his career. Other high points in his early '80s Marvel work included "War and Remembrance," a bracing set of Captain America stories with Roger Stern and *Alpha Flight*, a team of Canadian heroes written and drawn by Byrne.

Next, Byrne headed to DC Comics to revive the flagging Superman franchise with a reset of the Superman mythos that was enormously popular at the time and is still hailed as a masterpiece decades later. After two years helming Superman, Byrne returned to Marvel to work on a diverse set of books including the New Universe's *Star Brand*, the irreverent *Sensational She-Hulk* and the high-tech adventures of Iron Man. In the 1990s, Byrne launched his creator-owned series *Next Men*, scripted the first issues of Mike Mignola's *Hellboy* and delivered the goods for both Marvel and DC on numerous titles. Today, the implacable Byrne continues to write, draw and preside over a popular website. He was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 2015.

STEVE DITKO

The incomparable Steve Ditko began his career in comics in the 1950s, drawing for Charlton Comics and some of the usual science fiction, horror and mystery titles of the era. His style, however, was anything but "the usual," and it would prove to be as instantly recognizable as some of the iconic characters he would later introduce. His clean and lean figure work somehow took on a life singularly its own, often springing idiosyncratically across the page, channeling the kind of comic art energy that few others dared to attempt.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1927, Ditko studied illustration under Jerry Robinson at the Cartoonists and Illustrators School in New York. In 1953, he embarked on his career in comic storytelling by penciling odd, otherworldly tales in books like Charlton's *Space Adventures* and *Strange Suspense Stories*. His reputation grew as a draftsman who mixed powerfully evocative images into otherwise standard comics fare.

Recruited to join Stan Lee's small stable of artists in 1958, Steve's nuances were a noticeable contrast to Jack Kirby's boldness, and together they acted as the line's prime artistic movers. New titles like *Tales to Astonish* and *Tales of Suspense* joined overhauled series like *Journey Into Mystery* and *Strange Tales*, with Steve's eerie, *Twilight Zone*-tinged stories adding a hint of ominous paranoia to the texture of those anthologies. His style was so one-of-a-kind that he eventually got a book to call completely his own: In 1961, *Amazing Adventures* was retitled *Amazing Adult Fantasy* and given over completely to Ditko and Lee's collaborations.

But it was a certain wall-crawler who premiered later the next June that would confirm Steve Ditko's place in comics history. In 1962, in the pages of *Amazing Fantasy*, he and Stan Lee brought to life Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man. The troubled teen hero proved so popular that he was given his own series, the first 38 issues of which are ensconced as one of the all-time great runs in comics history. Another Ditko character, Dr. Strange, was an incredible influence on artists for years to come, with Ditko's mind-bending delineations of the Master of the Mystic Arts setting all kinds of (unintended) standards for pop art psychedelia.

Leaving Marvel Comics in 1966, he worked for Charlton again, drawing titles like *Captain Atom* and *Blue Beetle*. In the '70s, he worked for DC, launching *Shade, the Changing Man*, and independently published tales of his character, Mr. A, who exemplified Ditko's firm belief in Ayn Randian Objectivism. In the latter part of his career, he returned to Marvel, working there in the late '70s and throughout the '80s. Ditko was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 1994 and continued to add to his prolific body of work through self-publishing until his death in 2018.

STEVEN GRANT

A self-described "accidental" comic book writer, Steven Grant dabbled in comics writing in the early '70s for indie imprints before getting work as a music and film critic for newspapers in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin. He kept in touch with his comics-loving associates in the CPL Gang, who urged him to go further in the comics industry. A 1976 meeting with Marvel editor Marv Wolfman didn't yield any opportunities, but while visiting CPL pal Roger Stern in 1979 opportunity struck. Stern, an editor newly ensconced at Marvel, offered Grant a gig writing an issue of *Marvel Two-In-One* that was running late. After turning in his script for the Thing/Moon Knight team-up, more work came his way as he helped Stern get his titles back on schedule. His first regular gigs were Spider-Man's adventures in *Marvel Team-Up* and the young readers book *Spidey Super Stories*. Grant also wrote issues of *Spider-Woman*, *Incredible Hulk*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and he co-wrote the *Marvel Super Hero Contest of Champions* limited series. One of his biggest projects was scribing the *Life of Pope John Paul II* one-shot in 1983. That same year he launched his own character, Whisper, for Capital Comics and then First Comics, and was handed the reins to *American Flagg!* by its creator Howard Chaykin. In 1986, Grant made a huge splash with artist Mike Zeck on their *Punisher* miniseries. The fan-favorite series ignited the Punisher's popularity, raising him to the ranks of one of Marvel's most popular characters. Grant followed up with the acclaimed *Punisher: Return to Big Nothing* graphic novel and turns on *Punisher War Journal*, *Punisher War Zone* and the ongoing *Punisher* series. He branched out to DC in the '90s, rebooting *Challengers of the Unknown* and *Manhunter*. Grant's series *2 Guns*, published by BOOM! Studios, was adapted into a 2013 film starring Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg.

CARMINE INFANTINO

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Carmine Infantino attended the School of Industrial Art in Manhattan, though his best art education would come the summer of his freshman year in what amounted to a paid internship in Harry Chesler's studio. The teenager absorbed the work of the artists around him there. Infantino's first published work in comics was a Stan Lee-written Jack Frost story in *U.S.A. Comics* #1. Emboldened by the thrill of being published, the teenager wanted to quit school and take up art full-time. This idea was quickly put down by his father, but upon his graduation Infantino took up the career that he had been waiting for. He freelanced, drawing for Timely, Fawcett, Hillman and DC. At the latter company, he drew the first Black Canary appearance in *Flash Comics* #86 and became regular artist for *Green Lantern Comics* and *Justice Society of America*. In 1956, Infantino was assigned to give the Flash a makeover in a revival of the Golden Age hero. The new Flash, Barry Allen, came with a new costume to highlight his speedy super-powers and heralded the beginning of the Silver Age of super heroes. Infantino also drew the outer space adventures of Adam Strange in *Mystery In Space*, the macabre super-heroics of Deadman in *Strange Adventures* and designed the "New Look" Batman. By the late '60s, his graphic design sense and art skills emboldened DC to elevate him to editorial director—and ultimately publisher—where he set up the editorial regime that would define DC for the next decade. He also recruited Jack Kirby to DC in a bold move against competitor Marvel. Overall, his executive moves provided mixed returns, and he was fired in 1976. A freelancer once more, Infantino drew *Nova*, *Avengers*, *Iron Man* and a long run of *Star Wars* for Marvel. By 1981, he was back drawing at DC, including a long run on *Flash*. Infantino retired from regular work in the early '90s and was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 2000. He passed away in 2013.

DOUG MOENCH

A prolific writer over the last four decades, Doug Moench has made indelible contributions to Marvel and DC characters as well as developing his own creator-owned properties. After starting his career as a film reviewer for the Chicago *Sun-Times*, by 1971 he was ready to make his way into comics. Like many other writers of the time, he broke in with a story for Warren horror mag *Eerie*, after which he quickly found a home at Marvel. His initial efforts were focused on Marvel's black-and-white magazine line, including *Rampaging Hulk*, *Planet of the Apes* and *Tales of the Zombie*.

Moench's penchant for writing horror tales led to a long tenure on *Werewolf By Night*, near the end of which he introduced the brooding anti-hero Moon Knight. At around the same time, he and Rich Buckler launched Deathlok in the pages of *Astonishing Tales*. His other major achievement in the '70s was his tenure on *Master of Kung Fu*, a 10-year long saga praised by critics as a high-water mark of that era's comic storytelling.

In the midst of his work on mainline Marvel titles, he and longtime art partner Paul Gulacy developed *Six For Sirius*, a creator-owned sci-fi series on Marvel's Epic imprint; its success spawned a sequel, *Six For Sirius II*. He also co-created and wrote *Aztec Ace*, a popular indie title published by Eclipse.

By the mid-'80s, Moench had moved to DC Comics, where he took firm control of the Batman franchise, writing both *Batman* and *Detective Comics* for four years. Other DC highlights included *Mister Miracle*, *The Wanderers*, *Omega Men* and several highly regarded *Elseworlds* graphic novels. In the '90s, he returned to Batman for a seven-year run, after which he took on *Catwoman*. His most recent credit for Marvel was *Master of Kung Fu: Hellfire Apocalypse*, a 2003 limited series that reunited him with longtime art partner and *MOKF* alum Gulacy.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

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As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary creators as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These trailblazing talents birthed a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

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THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the Golden Age retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, the Atlas Era had it all!

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THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves — and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different — the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

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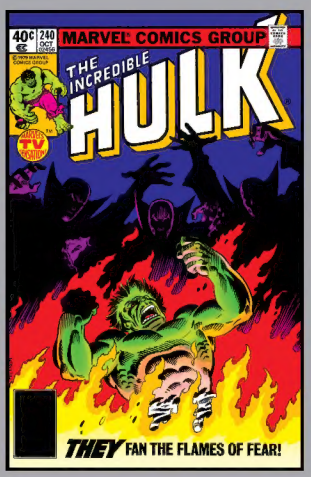
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